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Volume 16

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 7, 1942

No. 14

DEAN MacCORNACK OUTLINES VAST POST-WAR HOUSING PLAN

By JAMES T. GRADY

Editor's Note: This article, by Mr. Grady, Publicist for the A.I.A., was prepared from Dean MacCornack's lecture in Detroit on February 20, and is a good example of what a good publicist can do with such material for general newspaper use. It will appear in newspapers throughout the country.

Formation of a nation-wide organization to mobilize public opinion for a vast post-war housing construction drive is urged by Dean Walter R. MacCornack of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, vice president of the American Institute of Architects. The work of the organization would be the "backbone" of a program for the rehabilitation of American cities now under consideration by the Institute, according to Dean MacCornack.

It is further suggested by Dean MacCornack that American architects meet with members of the Royal Institute of British Architects, when possible, to discuss the postwar reconstruction problems of Europe and the Orient. Dean MacCornack envisions the mobilization after the war of thousands of technicians, architects and representatives of finance to bring world-wide order out of chaos.

As another step in creating in the public mind support of city planning and housing programs that will benefit the community, Dean MacCornack proposes that schools adopt educational programs that will emphasize the importance of post-war rehabilitation.

"This educational process cannot begin too soon," according to Dean MacCornack, "and the responsibility lies with the school systems of America to induct into the minds of the youth an appreciation of the worthwhile things of

"Too many of our educational institutions, especially those having to do with architecture and engineering, have felt the questions of aesthetics are subservient to archaeology and some of the detailed formula of engineering practice and have neglected to include in their curricula any courses which deal with the obligation of professional men to engage in the crusade against those social and economic conditions which are bringing about a decay in the morale of the people.

"There is little or no relationship between the various kinds of educational institutions; no uniting of their programs for the common purpose of creating better living conditions and higher economic standards and therefore better men and better cities."

A long-range program of reconstruction to be successful must be based upon enlightened legislation, Dean Mac-Cornack holds. "Those of us who have observed legislation in the Congress have been struck by the fact that various organizations appearing before legislative committees on housing and other bills having to do with the construction industry are not organized in their approach and too often appear for what may often be described as selfish interests.

"This problem is so great and so far-reaching, so all-inclusive that it is suggested that a nation-wide organization be formed which would create a public opinion regarding important matters in the reconstruction program. All elements should be represented."

Dean MacCornack suggests that savings banks, building and loan associations, engineering societies, insurance companies, building owners, women's clubs, taxpayers associations, and community groups be represented in the organization. He also mentions specifically the United States Chamber of Commerce, American Bankers Association, National Association of Real Estate Boards, American Medical Association, American Bar Association, and the National Association of Manufacturers.

"The purpose of this group would not be to make any more plans or any more reports, but to find ways and means for sifting the facts and being responsible for action.

"Already in several cities one or two organizations of a similar nature have been started and these, of course, would be necessary as subsidiary sections of the over-all national group, because their responsibility would be in the matter of state legislation, local legislation, and the actual work of getting the program under way in their own localities.

"There would be complete and sympathetic collaboration between these groups and the government agencies, national,

See MacCORNACK-Page 4

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To Ally And Not To A Lie

By William H. Reid, Jr., A.I.A., of Billings, Montana Member, Michigan Society of Architects

Four years and a degree or certificate of graduation from an accredited school of architecture never alone has made, in any instance, a draftsman, let alone an architect. Professors of architecture have known for years that there is something about this profession that defeats any amount of teaching, by itself; there must be a natural, indefinable something, within the man, to hang the teaching upon or, somehow it doesn't take. That indefinable something is not always a recognizable, inherent talent, always sought, but a relentless desire and drive that carries the man on against all odds . . . up to and including the discouragement of his professors. The ultimate results are a gamble with the future as far as the ideal, professional architect is concerned and whatever such may be.

Within the profession or indefeatably at it, then, are a host of men that fooled the professors (Emil Lorch will bear me out on this); have their degrees; fooled the registration boards, if you can call any of it fooling; and have fooled other architects and clients sufficiently to be among those dependent upon architecture for a living. All along the trail from student, draftsman, to practitioner, there are varying degrees of working men who are deserving of recognition in the society of architecture, despite the respect offered their attainment, by existing, organized groups.

Professional groups have been known to wield prejudiced yardsticks and are not always sufficiently awake to unbody the going qualification and the frequently surprising accomplishment that is creative in art and architecture. What we know as modern architecture is a far cry from the classical and period styles that were once inviolable in the eyes of those purported to render final judgment as to what was architecture. The progressive mind is not too well satisfied with all this would-be modern advancement in design trend and is only sure that its simplicity, rather than any excellence in design, will merit lasting mention. Certainly, there is copious room for the creative in enhancing interest, appeal and the nicety of fine detail as against the dull direction of straight line and barrenness of flat surface.

Surely, the profession must hold to its interpretation of perfection and respect the judgement of recognized and proven authorities on excellence of design, standards of practice and qualification for professional award. Such has been and should continue to be the function of the American Institute of Architects. The Institute connotes these particular and vital functions of the profession. Let it be said, accordingly, that there can be no fair, subversive criticism of that organization as such; rather, that, over the years, it has meticulously maintained the profession on a just plane of respect and creditably upheld the art and science that is architecture.

Now, not that the profession or architecture, in itself, is on the downgrade, but owing to the intrusion of agencies usurping the righteous field and domain of the practice of architecture, it becomes necessary to organize for power in number and voice. To organize not only those who have arrived in the interpretation of qualification for professional name and letter; but all who strive for full existence and the betterment of architecture, position and the ensuing preservation, maintenance and gain of this, their livelihood.

Unification is the word as far as the present subdivision of architects and draftsmen into ateliers, societies, chapters, and institutes is concerned with the usurpations and intrusions at hand, but alliance of all constituents to the common cause of architecture and protection of its rightful domain in practice is the ultimate goal for the profession.

California, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota or Washington for unification and then the United States by example and expansion, into this alliance. For the reason of general association of society vs. institute in term, it is to be hoped that Michigan will not by vote have designated their unification of members, in name, as the "Michigan Institute" or the "Michigan Chapter, American Institute of Architects." Why not the continuance of the good name, by deed accom-

plishment and untiring effort of the "Michigan Society of Architects?". Then, the California, Indiana, Minnesota, Montana and Washington, etc., Society of Architects as the chapters of the United States Society of Architects or the Associated Architects of the Western Hemisphere including the conquered and devastated areas of Japan, Germany and the Axis for a demonstration of the economic, practical and beauty values of lasting worth to society, that is architecture.

Meeting

MICHIGAN CHAPTER AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING & VENTILATING ENGINEERS

Horace H. Rackham Educational Memorial Monday, April 13, 1942 Dinner at 6:00 P. M.

The principal speaker of the evening will be Merrill F. Blankin, First Vice-President of the American Society of Heating & Ventilating Engineers. Mr. Blankin will address the meeting on the subject "Modern Practice in Hot Water Heating."

Mr. Blankin in his many years experience with hot water heating systems of all kinds will deal with this subject in a thoroughly understandable, practicable way. His talk will be accompanied by lantern slides. After Mr. Blankin's talk and on into the evening, for those interested, Mr. Watts A. Shelly, executive secretary of the Michigan State Board of Registration for Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, will give us a brief talk and answer questions on professional engineering registration. This should be a particularly interesting subject at this time with the expiration of the grandfather's act coming the end of this year.

Interested guests welcome. Advise Mr. William Old, secretary, Telephone, TEmple 1-7820; Address 1761 W. Forest to reserve place at dinner.

Prof. B. N. Blakeslee

Prof. Bert N. Blakeslee, for 20 years head of the department of architectural engineering, which he established, at the University of Detroit, died Thursday, March 26, at his home, 8826 Seven Mile road west, after a week's illness.

Prof. Blakeslee was a graduate of the University of Michigan and the Michigan State Normal College.

He began as a teacher of mathematics and science in the Bay City High School in 1895, After the Spanish-American War he was sent by the United States Government to teach the natives in the Phillipines. He taught there from 1901 to 1903.

He returned in 1903 to accept a position as chief draftsman for the Canadian Bridge Co. in Walkerville. He continued in this capacity for almost two decades before coming to U. of D.

He leaves his wife, Bessie, and two sons, Russell and L. Robert. The latter is assistant professor of architectural engineering at U. of D.

Prof. Blakeslee was 64 years old. He was born in Birmingham, Mich.

Bulletin:

In the past I have made reference to your organization there and we are always interested to learn how you boys operate. We have even used portions for news publication and no copies are destroyed coming to me. I trust that you may not defer continuing sending future copies as this office is hard pressed due to the rubber stamp plans in the neighborhood, running into millions, and private work completely curtailed. Prosperity and depression are running hand in hand here just now, by fall however things should adjust themselves. Regards to Emil Lorch and L. Rossetti.

—BENJAMIN K. RUEHL, (U. of M. '23) Spokane, Washington

Dates Extended for Wayne University Competition

The program for a competition for the Campus development of Wayne University, and for the selection of an architect for the proposed Students' Center Building was approved by the Detroit Board of Education at its regular meeting on March 24th.

Three prizes totalling \$4000.00 will be given for the three premiated designs for the University Group, and the competitor whose design for the Students' Center Building is adjudged the winner will be commissioned as the architect for that building. It is possible for one competitor to receive the first award in both phases of this competition.

The competition is open to all architects who are registered in the state of Michigan, except those whose offices are maintained in other states. A jury of five, including three architects recommended by the American Institute of Architects will select the winning designs. The names of the members of this jury will be announced ten days before the close of the competition.

All architects who are interested in entering this competition may obtain a program by written application to Branson V. Gamber, Professional Adviser, 3500 Union Guardian Building, Detroit, Michigan on or before April 11, 1942. The competition closes on June 1, 1942.

Owing to the importance of this competition it is hoped that many architects will be interested in entering it.

E. W. Nice

Word has been received of the recent death of Everett W. Nice, at his home in Florida. He was registered as an architect in Michigan, and a member of the Michigan Society of Architects.

With the rank of Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Naval Reserve, he had been in charge of construction of a large marine air base at Cherry Point, Florida.

During the World War, Commander Nice served as engineer for the Curtis Airplane corporation of Buffalo, N. Y., building of combat planes for the Allies. After the war he established the architectural and engineering firm of Wright and Nice, of Detroit, Pontiac, and Flint, Mich., performing architectural and engineering service, including construction work of upwards of \$250,000,000. Such services were performed for the Dort Motor Car company, General Motors corporation, Buick Motor company, Chevrolet Motor company, Fisher Body company and other automotive companies.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Marguerite Nice, of this city; his mother, Mrs. William E. Nice, and the sister; the

mother and sister being residents of Boston.

An informal discussion of architecture with Eric Mendelsohn as leader, was held at the Alpha Rho Chi house, Wednesday evening, March 25. It was sponsored by our Student Branch in collaboration with the Architectural Council of the University. The meeting was well attended by architectural students and local A.I.A. members.

The main subject of discussion was "Architecture-From what to what," discussing present day architecture and predicting post-war architecture. Mr. Mendelsohn's wide experience in the modern international style made the discussion a very interesing one.

"South American Medley," an absorbing documentary film just released by the United States Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, will be shown in the Main Library auditorium, Woodward and Kirby, at 7:30 P. M., Monday, April 13.

The vital necessity of a Pan-American front is the theme of the discussion which will follow the running of the film. Mr. Robert Wyatt of the Public School will preside during

this part of the meeting.

This Film Forum is the last for the season in a series presented by the Public Library in the interests of free speech and intelligent understanding of today's problems.

Free tickets may be obtained at the Main and branch libraries.

APRIL 7, 1942

Vogel in Washington

PENCIL POINTS ANNOUNCES:

"Since Monday, March 16, the able and energetic Willis A. Vogel has been in Washington acting on behalf of the Architectural Men registered with us who want to be of service to the Nation in its war effort. He is to be known as Technical Personnel Adviser. Mr. Vogel has, we believe, the qualities that will make him effective in this work he has undertaken. He is Vice President of the Toledo Chapter of The American Institute of Architects and a Vice President of the Society of Ohio Architects. He is dedicated to the principle that the technical skills of the architect can and must be used in every possible way in the Victory Program. He will remain in Washington, working for YOU, as long as needed."

MacCORNACK-(Continued from Page 1)

state and local. Good legislation would be supported and bad legislation defeated. This suggestion is the backbone of the reconstruction program now being considered by the A.I.A.'

Dean MacCornack predicts that the post-war era will provide great opportunities for reconstruction. "Immediately at the end of the war," he says, "there will be in the neighborhood of ten million men in uniform and fifteen to twenty million men in industry released from war activities."

He cites the important part finances would have in the program and urges "that all unnecessary restrictions be removed from institutions which can so ably and constructively" lend assistance.

Dean MacCornack says that the bombing attacks on London will eventually bring about a beautification of that

"In London during the great fire of 1666, Sir Christopher Wren devised a plan for the rebuilding of the city, which, had it been acted upon, would have made London one of the most beautiful cities in the world and St. Paul's Cathedral, instead of being hemmed in on all sides by shabby property, would have stood in the midst of a fine oval place, approached by a broad roadway from Ludgate, instead of by narrow Fleet Street. Again, instead of the miscellaneous collection of riverside warehouses a broad embankment would have bordered the river from the Black Friars Bridge to the Tower.

Today, however, the bombing of some of this area gives London once again the opportunity to replan large areas of its city on a more perfect basis and there seems to be a good chance that long-range planning in England will have its day and out of the chaos and destruction of the war will come better cities."

In America, Dean MacCornack points out, opportunities to beautify cities were lost after the great Chicago fire, the San Francisco earthquake and fire, and the Chelsea fire near Boston.

"We must face, and face it now, the question of what we are going to do with American cities which are fast approaching bankruptcy and which cannot long continue to be important centers of a sound civilization unless steps are taken to cure the evils existing in them.

"Our housing has been based on the type of housing built in Middle Europe and in some cities has taken the form of ten and twelve story elevator buildings. housing does not furnish homes, but storage warehouses for families. The fundamental and ideal requirement of happy family life is an individual house, and why we should continue to house people in New York City on land that costs from eighty thousand to two hundred thousand dollars an acre is a mystery. Until we consider housing for the indigent on cheap land and in houses that can be built for \$250 a room, instead of \$1,000, we will still be in the 'Dark Ages' of housing."

As an example of how proper planning can benefit a city, Dean MacCornack cites the opening up of playgrounds in the slum areas of New York City. These playgrounds, he says have resulted in a decrease of 50 per cent in juvenile delinquency. "This is a real point of attack on our twelve billion dollar crime problem," he concludes.

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DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 14, 1942

No. 15

MODERN ARCHITECTURE

By Henry F. Stanton, A. I. A.

With the world torn by war and our country in the midst of a crisis a discussion on the finer points of the meaning of architecture may seem a little futile. After all, what is the importance of architecture in the scheme of life? I am inclined to think it is something a little less than we architects think and considerably more than the layman thinks.

The war perhaps gives us a measure of the meaning of architecture. Thousands of Americans who have known the city of London are terribly concerned over the possible destruction of buildings they may have seen there. Countless other thousands who know something of the architecture of London from books and photographs only are concerned lest these beautiful buildings be destroyed. How much more keenly must the Londoner, who has lived his life in the shadow of these historic works, feel the danger of this loss of architecture. Just the other day a squad of men volunteered to risk their lives to remove a tremendous time bomb which if allowed to explode would have completely destroyed St. Paul's Cathedral.

I am ready to admit that more than just a love of architecture moved those men to risk their lives. There was a sentimental attachment for an ancient landmark. There was the desire to avoid the sacrilege of the destruction of an ancient church. There was the desire to outwit their enemies. But first there was, I believe, an urge to save a well beloved form—a silhouette against the sky that would be missed most terribly if it wasn't there—a mass of light and shadow to the man in the street that would leave an aching void if it no longer filled his eye—a thing of great beauty—a great work of architecture. No ugly building, no matter how old—no matter how efficient—no matter how useful, could, by the danger of its imminent destruction have stirred up so much feeling or have caused men to risk their lives in its preservation.

So I am inclined to think that architecture is important to the man in the street, even though he may not realize it, and has probably never asked himself the question. And perhaps it is worth our while to examine into the meaning of architecture.

I am anxious to have you think about architecture because unless there is a great deal of thought about it we can never have an intelligent criticism of architecture and without an intelligent criticism on the part of everyone we can never achieve a great indigenous architecture truly representative of our time and our people.

It may almost be said that the arts prosper in direct relation to the interest and critical discrimination of the great mass of the people. At the present time our people are well equipped to criticize a new model car. They are quick to applaud the new idea if it is good and as quick to denounce it if it isn't. They know what they are talking about and have sufficient self confidence to express their ideas. As a result we produce fine cars.

During the Renaissance period in Italy a window sill was built into a building which was moulded on its face in a manner never before seen in that locality and a crowd gathered in the street to discuss its merits. Those people also knew what they were talking about and were ready to say what they thought,—and architecture was at one of its high points in that period.

Not so architecture today. Today we have confusion in place of clear thinking, indifference in place of interest. We are in the midst of a revolution in architecture which unfortunately goes under the name of modernism.

It is quite useless to discuss Modern Architecture without first laying a common foundation of agreement as to what architecture is; and without first tracing and disentangling,

See STANTON-Page 4

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THE ANNUAL ANN ARBOR MEETING Detroit Chapter, A.I.A.

Will be held at The MICHIGAN UNION

Wednesday, April 15, 1942—Dinner at 6:30 P. M. \$1.00

Board of Directors Meeting at 4:00 P. M.

DISCUSSION BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION PRESENTATION OF DETROIT CHAPTER STUDENT AWARD

All Chapter members are cordially invited to make this annual Pilgrimage to our seat of learning, for a stimulating program, a joint meeting with members of The Chapter's Student Branch at the College of Architecture and Design, University of Michigan.

Malcolm R. Stirton, of Harley & Ellington, architects and engineers, will speak on the design and construction of the new building for the Rackham Educational Memorial, in Detroit; its genesis, analysis of problem, etc. As a U. of M. graduate and scholarship holder, Mr. Stirton's talk will be timely, appropriate and interesting.

The Rebuilding of England

This statement was printed in The Detroit Free Press Sunday Magazine section, April 5, in connection with several pages of pictures.

England already is planning to raise her cities of the future on the ashes of bomb-wrecked British communities. In the very devastation wrought by Hitler's bombers, British architects see an opportunity to make a dream come true—the dream of rebuilding entire communities on a comprehensive scientific plan.

Since World War I England has had an enlightened public housing program, but efforts to bring about community planning on a grand scale failed. Architects urged the wholesale razing of slum areas, but were rebuffed. Ironically, what peacetime argument failed to achieve, the war brought about. German bombs, crashing through the English night sky, wiped out huge sections of the slums of Coventry, London, Manchester, Liverpool and many other cities.

Now, hundreds of British architects, advanced students of architecture, and community planning experts are drafting blueprints which they hope will make post-war cities of England the most beautiful in Europe, and perhaps in the world.

Steel and concrete homes will provide cleanliness, air and sunshine where none existed before. Britons who dwell in them will be healthier and happier, and, accordingly, better citizens.

It is hoped, too, that the gigantic construction job will take up the slack in post-war unemployment by providing jobs for demobilized soldiers.

The pictures on these pages show some of the destruction in England, and the men and women who are planning to rebuild for the future.

It is with pride and pleasure that we learn of the appointment of Kenneth Kingsley Stowell to the editorship of Architectural Record. Ken, a past president of this society is in great measure responsible for its present membership and prominence among organized architectural groups. We of the Blue Print salute him and pledge our unflinching support—and what more can we say but—good luck. — Westchester County Society of Architects.

We learn that Maury Quinn, Hugh Keyes, Edgar Kimball and Neal Gabler are awaiting calls to go into the armed service.

The next issue of the Weekly Bulletin will be a Post Convention Number, hence no reports of that event in this issue.

Housing Expert Due at Lisbon

LOCAL MAN ON WAY TO LONDON FOR SURVEY OF BRITISH PLANS

(The Grand Rapids Press Bureau.)

Washington—Charles F. Palmer, a native of Grand Rapids, was scheduled to arrive in Lisbon by clipper Wednesday on his way to make a comprehensive study of wartime housing in the United Kingdom at the request of the president and the national housing agency.

Palmer was defense housing co-ordinator until that office, along with 15 other government housing agencies, was

merged into NHA.

The first objective of the housing mission to Britain, NHA said, will be to examine plans for first-aid repairs, rebuilding of bombed structures, material stockpiles, labor pools, war damage insurance, landlord and tenant relations, rents, voluntary and compulsory evacuation of danger areas, reception centers, construction techniques and types of materials used, group practices by constractors and architects, financing and subsidizing of public and private construction.

At the same time the mission will study the British system of providing permanent and temporary quarters for civilian workers engaged in war production.

Big Drive to Conserve Critical Material Starts

A.I.A. AND PRODUCERS COUNCIL WILL COOPERATE WITH WPB

N. Y. Telegram, April 3, 1942

A nationwide drive to conserve critical building materials, in co-operation with the War Production Board, has been initiated jointly by the American Institute of Architects and the Producers' Council, national organization of manufacturers of building materials and equipment, announced Richmond H. Shreve of New York, president of A. I. A.

A joint body, comprising two collaborating committees, one representing the institute and the other the council, has been formed to administer the sweeping program. Forums will be held throughout the country to enlist local architects and manufacturers in the campaign. Proposals already have been formulated for the elimination or curtailment of such critical materials as concrete, structural steel, roofing and sheet metal, lathing, paints, and granite and cut stone.

To Divide Field

The institute and the council plan to issue separate series of documents containing advice on methods of conserving vital materials. The institute will serve designers while the council will provide information for manufacturers and their customers.

"The immediate objective," Mr. Shreve declares, "is to establish a clearing house of information as to what designers and producers are doing to meet the critical material situation; to co-operate with the War Production Board in the promotion of modifications of design and specifications on all construction; to secure the co-operation of designers, producers, and constructors in eliminating the use of critical materials so far as possible, and to inform the building industry, government, and the public as to what private industry is doing to fulfill its obligations in this field of the war effort."

Heads Are Named

The collaborating committees have direct contact with representatives of the WPB designated for this work, according to Mr. Shreve.

Harry R. Dowswell of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, New York, has been named chairman of the institute committee. Albert B. Tibbets, sales promotion manager of the National Lead Co., New York, heads the council committee.

To Find Substitutes, Too

One of the aims of the joint group will be to encourage research and the development of acceptable alternates for critical materials. The committees also will develop a pro-

See SHREVE-Page 7

STANTON-(Continued from Page 1)

insofar as possible, all of the complicated ideas and theories that have pertained to it down through the ages, and which consciously or unconsciously affect our attitude toward it.

Primitive man sought shelter from the elements and betook himself into a cave. Later he improved that cave by stretching a skin across the opening to keep out the cold wind. Perhaps he smoothed the floor and knocked down certain stalactites on which he found that he bumped his head. These were the first architectural efforts. He was changing the natural forms, and his habitation became more distinctly man made.

Undoubtedly other primitive men saw him making himself comfortable in his cave and went and did likewise. Also, undoubtedly, some of them were smarter and thought of new and better things to do to improve the dwelling. Perhaps some discovered that, where a shortage of caves existed, they could be made by piling up rocks or throwing together trees and branches. These had the advantage of being subject to location where they were wanted instead of where they happened to be—site planning in its infancy.

As the habitations developed some men unquestionably became more skilled at constructing them than others and so the art of building or Architecture came into being.

I shall not attempt to follow its history through all the stages of development. With certain peoples and in certain places it became a great art. The Babylonians—the Egyptians—the Greeks—the Romans—the early Christians—the great Gothic architecture of Europe. Each of these peoples or groups of peoples developed out of the need for shelter an art of building that was distinctly its own and over long periods carried it to an extraordinarily high degree of proficiency. It can be said in general of each of these great periods that its builders were not concerned with style. They built in the only idiom they knew and knowledge was passed down from father to son, from master to apprentice, accumulating as it went until it flowered forth in the breath taking perfection of the finished architecture.

Apparently there was little confusion in their thinking about architecture. I firmly believe that Sir Henry Wotten's definition—which by the way he took from Vitruvious—would have satisfied any and all of the builders of the great periods. Sir Henry said: "Well-building hath three condi-

tions-Commodity-Firmness and Delight."

Unfortunately that clarity and directness in thinking of architecture did not continue down the ages to modern times. There seems to have been since the end of the Renaissance Period almost a conspiracy to confuse the subject and all related issues.

Because those confusions are so much a part of us today that we accept almost as canon law things that are very far from the truth; and because these confusions ultimately lead to the revolution which is modern architecture, I am

going to try to trace and analyze them for you.

First a word about Architecture and how it differs from the other arts. Its major changes are necessarily slow. Painting, literature, sculpture and music may be produced at will by their creators and public recognition and acceptance often follows later. Architecture on the other hand is distinctly a collaboration between a patron and his architect. There must first be a client with the desire and the money to build, the architecture follows—most of the other arts produce first and sell afterwards if they can—architecture must sell first. This curtails production and produces a certain natural conservation in regard to change. At least two people must be convinced that change is progress and not merely change—Architecture develops slowly.

For the same reason Architecture cannot develop without a parallel development in public taste in Architecture. The cultivation of taste is dependent on a lively criticism and unfortunately criticism is confused by a heritage of confused ideas. Geoffrey Scott, to whom I make acknowledgement for many of the thoughts herein says in his "Architecture of Humanism"—"Architecture, the most complex of the arts, offers to its critics many paths or approach, and as many opportunities for avoiding their goal."

Let us now go back to Wotten's definition. "Well-building hath three conditions - Commodity - Firmness - and Delight." This is so clear and concise that it may be regarded as a major catastrophe that anything more was ever said on the subject. Unfortunately much has been said.

As the Renaissance was drawing to a close in the late seventeen hundreds there sprang up all over Europe a new movement starting in literature and gradually making itself felt in all the arts. The Romantic movement was the beginning of the end of clear thinking in architecture. It was the beginning of the application of ideas wholly foreign to architecture in evaluating this art. I cannot, in the time allowed, begin to trace for you all the steps by which Romanticism gradually led people astray and changed their whole attitude and point of view. Romanticism was interested in the remote, the foreign, the antique-It came to be interested in architecture not so much as a concrete art to be judged as such, but as a suggestion for Romantic ideas. In England a revival of Gothic was started and for the first time in the history of architecture, we find a people divided into two camps. Gothic or Classic-The battle of the styles had begun and was to be carried on right down to our own generation-together with all its disastrous confusions. Style is not, and never was, a thing made to fit architecture into. Architecture evolves and style comes into Style follows architecture—not architecture style.

The Romanticists began to take an interest in Gothic—they were drawn to it by its element of mystery and antiquity. You see people were beginning to value architecture for other than architectural worth—and this false idea persists to this very day. I do not mean that Gothic architecture was not good architecture—my point is that here, for the first time, people were applying ideas applicable to literature to a concrete art—they were losing sight of the true basis of criticism.

Thomas Grey writing in 1754 of Lord Brooke at Warwick Castle said "He has sashed the great apartment—and being since told that square sash windows were not Gothic he has put certain whim-whams within side of the glass, which appearing through are made to look like fret work." Thomas Grey was evidently not in sympathy and was ridiculing Lord Brooke for his romantic ideas. Here we see the evil at work and after one hundred and eighty-three years it has a disarming familiar sound.

And again in the late seventeen hundreds an English gentleman instructed his architect to design—"an ornamental building which should have the appearance of a convent, be partly in ruins and yet contain some weather proof apartments." This is probably an all time high for Romanticism. Again the weaving of poetic ideas around the architecture of a period and diverting the thought from the purely aesthetic point of view. When we laboriously chop up sawn timbers to make them look as if they had been hued out by hand—or when we insist upon factory made worm holes—so many to the square foot of paneling—or make competent plasterers put up their work so it will look as though done by some one who didn't know how—when we do these things today, we are subscribing to the same Romantic fallacy.

The Romantic movement grew and spread, finding new ideas on which to develop. The cult of naturalism sprang up. Any conscious effort towards beauty was wrong-we must follow nature—a building must as nearly as possible lose itself in its natural setting. Beautiful formal gardens were torn up to allow a vista of natural hill and dale. The difficulty is to find the fallacy in this line of reasoningit can be made to sound most convincing-there is enough truth in it to throw us completely off our guard. Is it not true, however, that ever since the early beginning of man he has taken pains to make his surroundings and his house different from nature? Nature and art may even be opposite, complimenting each other it is true, but essentially opposite. And let me repeat again, the Romanticists here introduced another idea totally foreign to the criticism of architecture. The idea that the more like nature a building is-the more successful; is an idea that is disproved on every hand and yet it is an idea which in itself has sufficient romantic claim to be unfortunately persistent.

The picturesque was taken up and extolled to the skies— In the process it was completely misunderstood. Too conscious effort for picturesqueness produced many a Victorian atrocity—architecture if nothing else is order as opposed to chaos.

And so Romanticism spread its sinister confusion in the realm of architecture—Romanticism whose first fallacy was to regard architecture as symbolic.

During the latter part of this period a new movement was taking shape—new influences were at work—invention was heralding the mechanical age—and architectural thought was to be further confused by the mechanical fallacy. Science took the stage away from poetry and calculation pushed out sentiment. What more natural than to argue that in architecture where the mechanical elements unquestionably formed the basis of the structure, that mechanical results were the very goal. The outstanding success of science in its own field lead to the application of this system of logic in all fields—even art.

The mechanical fallacy and its attendant confusions has as many ramifications as the Romantic. We can do no more than suggest the high spots—The mechanical fallacy is still rife in the land. In this country it has many followers and

is making converts daily.

Form should express structure—is one of their watch words. The vertical steel columns of a building should be expressed by accenting the vertical lines. They pass over the fact that ton for ton there may be as much horizontal steel in the building as vertical. One of our leading architects has built, in New York, two tall buildings within sight of each other, one with all the accent on the vertical and the other with all the accent on the horizontal. Many of our best architects have succeeded not because of their

theories, but in spite of them.

To get back to the beginning of this mechanical fallacy, it is amusing to note that whereas the Romanticist had turned to the Gothic because of mystery and sybolism—this mechanical age received it with open arms as the true expression of basic structure. The mechanical explanation of the success of Gothic was its perfect concentration of loads, each stone obviously doing its work and the loads collected and carried down to the earth; the Romanticists argued its success because of its aspiring quality of spires and pinnacles reaching up to the heavens. The truth obviously lay in between these two.—Gothic buildings like all other buildings not actually falling down were in equilibrium.

Some of the early designers of machines sought to improve their appearance by the addition of ornament. Untrained in the arts, they added egg and dart mouldings to cylinder heads and scrolls to connecting rods with truly awful effect. When it was discovered that the simple machine designed only to do its work was a thing of beauty compared to these—behold a new rule had come into being. Again it was made to apply to architecture where it did not belong. The ultimate, according to this school of thought, was to show the naked structure. Truth and honesty must prevail. If a building clearly disclosed its structural frame, and served its utilitarian purpose, it needed nothing more. It was beautiful. It mattered not one iota whether anyone liked it or not.

But curiously enough the world still paid homage to the master pieces of architecture of earlier periods and people still found real pleasure in them despite the fact that they

violated every tenet of the new system.

The mechanically minded had attempted to set up a new system whereby they could judge infallibly. They are doing it today. The automobile of today is undeniably a thing of beauty. It is argued that this is so entirely because its designers were concerned only with producing an efficient article—one which meets all the requirements of structure and use—beauty resulted. Therefore, it is argued that if we don't concerned ourselves with beauty we will achieve it—if we do we won't. There is a large element of truth in this, a very valuable bit—but it is only

a part truth—and very dangerous if it is attempted to evolve from it a general theory of art.

About the time the mechanical fallacy was coming into being another outside influence began to make itself felt. Ruskin had published his "Stones of Venice" and "The Seven Lamps of Architecture." Without wishing to detract one bit from his literary ability it is my opinion that he worked more damage to sane architectural thought than any other individual. The ethical fallacy was born. Writing of Venice he said, "It is the moral nature of this architecture which is corrupt." Once again ideas entirely unrelated to a concrete art are brought in and woven into its fabric. Like the others the ethical fallacy still persists. Certain styles of architecture can only bring to church buildings the true feeling of righteousness. Banks must be classic. We have to dig deep to uproot this mental complex because these ethical feelings are planted deep in our consciousness by years of teaching and habit. But fundamentally what has it got to do with whether the building in question is good or bad architecture? Nothing at all. I am willing to admit there are more good churches done in the traditional church styles than otherwise. That is both because it is probably easier to do in the light of good precedent and because the public has demanded it. But the fact must not be allowed to cloud our critical minds in regard to a church which is not so done. When one of the greatest of English architects designed a church building for a suburb of London in a somewhat new conception the Bishop of London swept the whole scheme aside with one gesture, "I must have a spire pointing to God." The world probably lost by that move a valuable contribution to architecture.

The currents of this ethical criticism and that of Romanticism flow together and are intermingled. Belonging to

this group also is the criticism of sentiment.

This sentimental aspect is a most difficult thing to discuss. We are, none of us, entirely free from sentiment; but it has its place and its place is decidedly not in evaluating architecture. From this sentimental point of view came a whole system of defense for the Gothic and condemnation of the Renaissance. The Gothic artisans were men who loved their work, were inspired with religious zeal in its execution-they were allowed much individual freedom and took a personal pride in the result. The Renaissance artisan on the other hand was no more than a slave to the will of some one higher up, doing his daily stint without enthusiasm. The sentimental picture of the zealous artisan in the first case has trapped many an unwary critic into the conclusion that, therefore, Gothic architecture must be better than that of the Renaissance. Setting aside the fact that it is doubtful whether the Renaissance artisan was any less happy and fervent in his work than his Gothic predecessor, it would be quite easy to prove that the disciplined, trained artisan working under careful supervision would be just as likely to produce satisfactory results. The point to remember is that such sentimental ideas have nothing whatever to do with whether architecture is good or bad and far from helping us on our way, they only further be-fog the road.

Again the ethical critic finds that good architecture must be true to itself and to the beholder-bad architecture is deceitful. Having discovered that the Italian Renaissance architects often used chains and tie rods to bolster up their vaults and archies structurally, they immediatley classify this entire period as deceitful. Many buildings of this period admired for centuries as stone were discovered to have been built with brick so cleverly covered over with stucco to resemble stone as to completely deceive the ordinary observer. Could such an architecture, living such a lie be acclaimed as good? The answer is that it is as good as it was before the so-called "deceit" was known. Again ethical considerations are made to take the place of true critical values. The building may be good or it may be bad-the fact that it is either built of stone or brick covered with stucco to resemble stone has nothing to do with the question, unless the resemblance is so poor as to give a reaction of insecurity.

And so, and in many more ways, the ethical fallacy has

added its bit to our confusion.

What other mode of thought has contributed to this dilemma?—None other than evolution. I can only just touch on the biological fallacy. Darwin brought out his theory of evolution and the whole world was rightly interested—here was something that would submit to logic—things evolved—everything evolved according to a fixed law—architecture evolved. The fallacy of the evolutionary criticism was that it sought not to criticize but to explain. Each style must evolve logically out of its predecessor—any detail which did not clearly show the influence from which it evolved marked that piece of architecture as wrong—the argument was made to fit the evolutionary laws and not the facts—the interest was centered in the laws and the facts were rarely even studied. Nature may evolve logically but man's acts are often far from logical and man makes architecture not nature.

All of these fallacies of thought as applied to architecture—the Romantic, the mechanical, the ethical and the biological—have years of prestige behind them, all have come down to our day and persist with different degrees of intensity, some are on the wane and some are still gathering strength. They are all about us—almost subconscious habits of thought. We stand in the middle of our heritage of confusion and survey the wreckage.

The public of today has the best of excuses for being uncertain and confused in evaluating and criticizing architecture.

The picture of the unfortunate state of Architecture is not complete without some word on the part education played in adding to our confusions. Education in art, and particularly in architecture, was in the great historical periods a thing very closely allied to the actual experience of production. The architect, the leader in any building project, and his assistants worked usually at the building site almost shoulder to shoulder with the craftsmen and artisans who were carrying out the work. Sculptors, carvers and painters working under the directions of the architect were there on the scene—all working together. The younger men learned by first hand experience, by visual example, by advice and criticism of their leaders.

At a much later date academies were introduced intended no doubt as a sort of supplement to the existing means of education. Gradually they affected a definite separations between design and actual construction which reached the extreme of disassociation in the Ecole des Beaux Arts some thirty or forty years ago. Schools were concentrating on the teaching of the drawing of architecture rather than on true architecture. Drawing is after all only a means to an end. Dr. Walter Gropius, new head of the school of architecture at Harvard, said of this subject recently, "Unfettered by practical consideration, the academy withdrew the artist entirely from the work-a-day world and lulled him in a dream of genius, leaving him unequipped for the struggle of existence." Architecture produced under the influence of such an educational system has been stigmatized as "paper architecture."

Mention of Dr. Gropius brings us at last to Modern Architecture, for he is none other than the founder of the Dessau Bauhaus, and one of the foremost exponents of modernism. I have tried to give you the briefest sort of sketch of the state of architecture which brought about the revolt of the modernists.

A few names stand out—Le Curboisier, the International School, Gropius, Lascaze—but names mean very little, because I feel that the change was and is taking place in the minds of all thinking architects.

What is Modernism? Modernism is nothing more than a return to fundamental principles, a stripping away of confusions and a return to clear thinking. Modernism is really nothing more than a state of mind—freedom—freedom to solve the problem at hand in a most direct way without hampering influence.

Superficially, modernism has been said to be a revolt against tradition and a complete denial of all traditional forms. If modernism is only that, architecture has indeed fallen into a fallacy as great as ever was any of the fallacies of the past.

And what is Modern Architecture? In the first place there is very little that can be called truly modern architecture, and very much which calls itself modern and is nothing more than a conglomeration of superficial forms which have been accepted as "modern." These last are guilty of the unpardonable sin of following traditional form just as much as is the classic post office, the difference being merely that they go back only ten or fifteen years for their tradition instead of fifteen hundred.

The magazine "Time" on October 25th made the following well formed statements: "A fact long apparent to thoughtful people was that there is often something fake, ill fitting and hot house about the designs for public buildings and monuments which graduates of great architectural schools turn out every year. Also apparent was the fact that there is something foolish and affected or else starved and forbidding about many examples of so-called 'functional design'." I think every reasonable person will agree with both these statements. It is the people who are carried away by fad and who lack the courage to criticism what the crowd is acclaiming who really impede progress.

What do I think of Modern Architecture? I think that most of what we call modern is bad—some of it is very bad—and a very little of it good. The accenting of horizontal lines, corner windows, flat roofs and meanless ornament doesn't necessarily make modern architecture. It makes only different architecture which may be good and may be bad. The success of architecture in the past depended on mass, line, space and proportion. The success of modern architecture depends on exactly the same principles. We must beware of a tendency to ascribe merit to anything that is different, bizarre, odd or eccentric. It is one of the weaknesses of this age of rapid change to assume that all change is for the good.

I offer as my humble opinion that most good architecture that is being done today is modern in a broad sense; and that some "modern" architecture is good.

William Lascaze of New York, a gifted architect and a modern, calls the first principle of architecture, "building what we need out of what we have that best serves the purpose, using the best tools available."

And let me repeat again the words of Sir Henry Wotten: "Well-building hath three conditions - Commodity - Firmness and Delight."

Dr. Walter Gropius says, "As Mother of all the Arts, Architecture has to fulfill two different demands made by man: the purpose or objective of a thing, and its expression or form."

These are three different definitions from two widely separated ages—to me they mean fundamentally the same thing.

Modernism is after all primarily a state of mind.

The Development of American architecture since 1900, influenced by changes in the ways of living, the contributions of science, and the use of new materials, was discussed by W. A. Stone, Kalamazoo architect, in an illustrated lecture at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Wednesday evening, March 11. The lecture was one in a series on "Expression in 20th Century America."

Albert Kahn, noted Detroit architect, was awarded the medal of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects at an exhibition of architecture and allied arts on March 19, at Philadelphia.

The medal for most distinguished work was presented Mr. Kahn in recognition of the large numbers of defense plants he and his organization of architects and engineers are designing throughout the United States.

Wirt Rowland, of the office of Giffels & Vallet, in Norfolk, has recently enjoyed a vacation in Florida. Also greetings are received from Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kamper, at Saint Petersburg, "Having a wonderful time."

Fred Crawther, architectural delineator is back in service, after a short illness, "up and around and eager for work."

Dear Mr. Hughes:

The supervisory staff of Art Education is deeply appreriative of the privilege of hearing Eric Mendelsohn in his recent lecture. Your generous inclusion of the Metropolitan Art Association as co-sponsor was a very fine cooperative movement to integrate the groups and to give the painters and art educators a broader grasp of the works of the architects.

Although the weather was very disagreeable, there was a good representation from the art teaching membership as well as other groups. The teachers were most enthusiastic in their reactions.

Thank you again for the "Weekly Bulletin." We enjoy and benefit from it so much. It is made available to art teachers coming to the office and so reaches a wide group.

It has been pleasant being associated with you on the Board of the Metropolitan Art Association and it has meant much to the Board to have your counsel and advice as well as the prestige that your cooperation brings to the Asso-

I hope that this year's splendidly organized program is a step in the further growth of this movement for the strengthening of ties and interests of the various groups composing the membership. Again with much appreciation Sincerely yours,

MABEL ARBUCKLE Chairman House Committee Metropolitan Art Association

Director, Art Education Detroit Board of Education

\$4000 Prizes For Wayne's Campus Plan

Approval of a program of competition for a campus arrangement and architectural design for the proposed threeblock extension of the Wayne University campus, and for the selection of an architect for a student center building was given by the Detroit Board of Education at a recent meeting.

An architectural competition, open to all architects whose principal offices are in the state, will be conducted by the board. The closing date for entering the contest is April 11; and the closing date for submitting the entries, June 1. A jury of five persons, including three architects selected from the recommendations of the American Institute of Architects, will select the winning design for the group plan. There will be three cash awards totaling \$4,000.

Details of the competition have been prepared by Bronson V. Gamber, 3500 Union Guardian Building, professional adviser for the contest.

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SHREVE—(Continued from Page 3)

gram for participation of local A. I. A. chapters and state societies and local Producers' Council Clubs to aid designers and manufacturers in adjusting their activities to the emergency conditions confronting the building industry, also provide information on building products to persons in charge of design of construction projects.

Theodore I. Coe of Washington, D. C., technical secretary of the institute, has been named technical secretary of the

joint body.

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PROGRAM

PRESIDING—MR. WM. EDWARD KAPP.
Director, Detroit Chapter, A.I.A.

Short Presentations by:

MR. T. I. EASTON,

Asst. Regional Manager, Priorities Division, W.P.B.

MR. H. J. QUILHOT,

Consulting Analyst, Defense Housing Division, W.P.B.

COLONEL R. G. BARROWS,

District Engineer, U. S. Army.

CAPT. RALPH D. SPALDING, (C.E.C.) U.S.N.,

Public Works Officer, 9th Naval District, Great Lakes, Ill.

MR. C. M. GOODRICH,

Chief Engineer, Canadian Bridge Co., Ltd.

MR. D. W. KIMBALL,

President, The Associated General Contractors of America, Inc.

MR. J. W. FOLLIN,

Managing Director, The Producers' Council, Inc.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

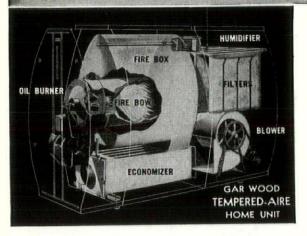
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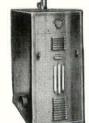
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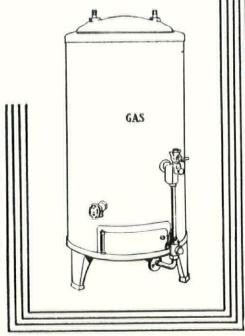
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Michigan Society of Architects

April 21, 1942

TALMAGE C. HUGHES Editor

E. B. FAUQUIER Adv. Mgr.

120 Madison Ave., Detroit, Mich.

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Special Issue, reporting 28th Annual Convention of the M. S. A., Lansing, April 3 & 4, 1942.

On the Cover

The picture on the cover of this issue, taken by Mabel Phillips, of Lansing, is a detail of the Water Conditioning Plant at Lansing, Michigan. The building, which is of monolithic concrete, was designed for the Board of Water and Electric Light Commissioners by Lee Black & Kenneth C. Black, Architects, of Lansing. The figure, which is about 30' high, is cast in concrete as an integral part of the front wall of the building. It symbolizes the purification of water through chemical and mechanical processes. The original model was made by Samuel Cashwan of Detroit, and the waste moulds from which the figure was cast were made by the W.P.A. as a Federal Arts Project.

Architects and Members of Their Organizations, Registered at Convention

Clark R. Ackley, Roger Allen.

George J. Bachman, Hamilton H. Beatty, Wells I. Bennett, Kenneth C. Black, Lee Black, L. Robert Blakeslee, Daniel C. Bryant.

Lawrence E. Caldwell, A. B. Chanel.

Clair W. Ditchy.

Frank Eurich, Jr.

F. A. Fairbrother, Homer A. Fowles, Robert B. Frantz, Lynn W. Frv.

Cornelius L. T. Gabler, Branson V. Gamber, Walter F.

Garstecki, R. V. Gay, R. S. Gerganoff, C. A. Graether. Maurice E. Hammond, Homer W. Harper, Aloys Frank Herman, Ralph B. Herrick, Derrick Hubert, Sr., Derrick Hubert, Jr., Talmage C. Hughes.

John Kasurin, Paul Kasurin, Otto H. Kavieff, Louis C.

Kingscott, Carl Kressbach.

Adrian N. Langius, Joseph W. Leinweber, Amedeo Leone, Emil Lorch.

Milton C. Major, W. V. Marshall, Harry L. Mead, George H. Meihls, Kenneth Michel, Andrew R. Morison, Orlie J. Munson, George M. McConkey.

Charles M. Norton.

C. W. Palmer, St. Clair Pardee, Earl W. Pellerin, John L.

J. Russell Radford, Clarence H. Rosa, Carl J. Rudine.

Claude D. Sampson, George K. Scrymeour, Ralph E. Seeger, Paul R. Sewell, Stanley G. Simpson, Eberle M. Smith, James A. Spence, Stephen J. Stachowiak, Chris Steketee, A. Alan Stewart, Gordon H. Stow, Frederick G.

John C. Thornton.

Alden D. Walker, Merie C. Weaver, Harvey H. Weemhoff, S. Q. Wong, L. L. Woodworth, Frank H. Wright. Emil G. Zillmer, Arthur J. Zimmermann.

Producers and Others Registered at Convention

E. D. Ainslie, Jr., Dempster Alberts, N. S. Anderson, A. E. Artes, F. C. Ayers, Wesley B. Beadle, M. H. Beatty, L. C. Becker, Ross Belyea, Ross Belyea Jr., H. C. Black, J. E. Boom, Vern Brandes, S. E. Brenner, E. J. Brunner, Roy J. Budd, L. A. Burch, Bruce Calkins, Willard G. Caswell, Eugene Cooley, W. A. Cory, J. S. Covan, H. E. Cross.

Leslie G. Darling, Cal Dennison, Ray L. Deppmann, H. T.

Donaldson, C. R. Dunn, J. F. Eckert, John H. Freeman, Charles E. Frost, Earl Garrett, H. T. Gery, Sam J. Gettleson, Frank Gleason, J. O. Granum, O. M. Granum, C. W. Gudnau, Alton J. Hager, Harold H. Hager, Lance C. Hanley, Roger K. Hanson, W. T. Harms, E. G. Hertel, J. E. Holmes, Roy Hutzel, Jarvis Engineering Works, Francis Kibort.

T. X. Lareau, J. H. Logan, Ray T. Lyons, Paul R. Marshall, Wayne Mohr, Frank J. Mueth, Dale McCauley, Ruben Nyenhuis, Louis T. Ollesheimer, James E. Payne, Harold J.

Reniger, Henry A. Reniger.

Jim Sampson, Ernest Schemerhorn, Bernard Schilling, Claude Seaburn, Charles K. Sestok, Dell Shilts, W. A. Shirley, C. R. Stebbins, George Stine, David T. Stockbridge, S. J. Sullivan, C. S. Thorson, Walter J. Torbet, Ellar Trittin, P. E. Ummel, P. J. Valentine, J. Vanden Bogert, Harry Walter, Seth Whitmore, R. M. Whyte, A. M. Woods, Morley Zander, John Zanella.

Being With My Friends

I've been coming to these Banquets A dozen years or more; And though I'm not an Architect, Nor could I as one score, I always have a dandy time, From the start until it ends. 'Cause the greatest joy to me in life, Is being with my friends. When I look around the gang That's gathered here tonight; It makes my old heart beat for joy, And my throat gets kind of tight; And I'm really full of happiness, And I make no amends,

'Cause there's nothing in this whole wide world.

Like being with your friends. A man can travel 'round this earth, And see a lot of things; And there are many things in life, That to us happiness brings; But after all the thing in life,

That the greatest pleasure sends; Is going out on a time like this,

And being with your friends. Did you ever stop to reason,

How lonely you would be; If strangers stood on every side, And no friends you could see;

I don't think we can realize, How much in life depends,

On friendships formed along the way, And being with our friends.

When you fellows call me Bill, And smile and shake my hand;

I feel that you may never know, But it makes me feel so grand; That warm and welcome hand clasp,

With a kindly feeling blends: And my cup of joy is brimming full,

When I am with my friends. A man could have a pot of gold, And most unhappy be;

The possession of material things, Don't mean much to me;

But the thrill of life that comes to me, And pays big dividends,

Is going out on a time like this, And being with my friends. When I reach my span of years,

And my turn on earth is o'er; And I take up my journey,

To that fair and distant Shore; If I meet good St. Peter, And he, his hand extends,

I'll tell him I'll be happy, If he parks me with my friends.

-Bill Cory.

LANSING CONVENTION ONE OF THE BEST

GOOD SPEAKERS, GOOD SUBJECTS, GOOD ATTENDANCE

Attendance at convention sessions was 188, a report of the convention committee reveals. "Since the committee only planned on a total attendance of between 125 and 150, we are naturally pleased with the final figures, and feel that, considering all circumstances, the convention was quite successful," commented Kenneth C. Black, committee chairman. Then he added the doubtful note, "No figures are yet available as to the financial outcome," but it's safe to say, with such an attendance, there is nothing to fear in that connection.

But, be that as it may, the boys in Lansing deserve a big hand for their planning and execution of such a successful event. From the time registration opened it could be seen that success was assured, however, Gus Langius continued to worry until at the smoker it became necessary to move in more and more tables. Then there was much good fun, kidding the committee about being so apathetic. "They might have at least told the hotel we were coming," it was said. The smoker, planned by Jim Stew-



art, was an occasion of much good fellowship, with Chris Steketee at the piano, with Branson Gamber and Paul Marshall leading the singing, and lyrics specially written by Roger Allen.

In general the tone of the convention was much more serious and down to business than ever before, and this is as it should be, since it was devoted largely to the architects' part in the Nation's war effort. The period from 12:00 noon to 3:00 P.M. Friday was left open so that delegates could attend church services in down-town Lansing. Dr. Edgar Faust speaking at a combined service in the Michigan Theatre, likened human life to a monument or a building dedicated to Christ. Only man himself can build for eternity, he said, adding that this eternity can be attained only if the builder patterns his



Langius

life after the "Great Architect" and bases his spiritual foundations on a relationship with God.







Herrick

Stewart

Zimmermann

Arthur J. Zimmermann, president of the Central Michigan Division of the Society welcomed delegates and invited them to partake of the many advantages of life in Lansing. He mentioned the seat of government, the Capitol, where one can see government in action, the state buildings, an ideal college community at State College in East Lansing, and "Industry keyed to victory."

Others assisting in planning the convention were R. V. Gay, St. Clair Pardee, Clarence Rosa and Ralph Herrick.

On hearing the report of John C. Thornton, treasurer, Branson Gamber designated it as a record of achievement, bringing the Society's assets from a few hundred to a good many thousands of dollars, and its membership from 250 to 550.

The auditing committee, consisting of Frank Eurich, Jr., chairman, Adolph Eisen and Aloys Frank Herman, reported (among other things) as follows:

"Your committee is pleased to report that all financial rec-

ords of the Society are not only complete and accurate in every respect, accurately kept and perfectly balanced with



Thornton

the bank, but that the treasurer's books present a model of neatness and accuracy, of which the Society may be proud."

John, upon retiring from his office, after six years of service, was roundly applauded, to which he responded:

"In turning over the books and assets of the Society to my successor, I have mixed feelings. In the past six years, the labors of the office have increased to such an extent that there is a feeling of relief in shifting the burden. There is also a deep feeling of regret, as this work

has been a real pleasure. Through this office, I have come to know a great many of our members personally. The greatest payment for the hours of labor caused by such an office, next to the satisfaction of making a contribution to the profession, is in the friendships made. We have a wonderful group of men in the Michigan Society of Architects, and I believe the treasurer knows them best as he has more personal contacts than any other officer.

"We have made a record this year of which we can all be proud. This record is the result of the efforts of a great many and cannot be attributed to any one or two persons. I want to express my appreciation for help from our President, Bill Palmer, our Secretary, Neil Gabler, Tal Hughes and the Bulletin, Larry Caldwell, Chairman of the Membership Committee, and all of the members of his committee throughout the state, also the presidents and officers of the various divisions. For the unusually large membership outside of the State, I feel that the Bulletin is largely responsible. There had to be something besides our work to make this record. There had to be a feeling that our Society was worthwhile and that the individual was getting something for his money. I feel we have a Society which is doing

"I am very happy over our financial situation. It has been my aim since assuming office to put something into government bonds each year in order to build up a reserve for the rainy day, something to carry the Society through to better times, and if the rainy day does not come, to build up investments, the interest from which will aid in our goal, a paid secretary. We now receive approximately \$100.00 in interest each year. See CONVENTION—Page 7

Convention Theme Song

(Sing to the tune of "The Old Oaken Bucket")

How dear to my heart are the scenes at conventions When architect delegates heave into view

Each one with a thirst of impressive dimensions.

While they yearn for the solace of some soothing brew But not from the bucket, The iron-bound bucket,

The moss covered bucket that hung in the well.

The traveling salesman and the farmer's daughter Are topics familiar to each architect

But few know or care very much about water

And drinking from buckets they proudly reject. The old oaken bucket,

The moss-covered bucket,

To hell with the bucket that hung in the well.

-Lyrics by Roger Allen

CONVENTION—(Continued from Page 6)

"It is my sincere hope that the Society will follow the plan we have set and keep on building up our reserve."

It is with regret that we lose him as treasurer, but since he becomes first vice-president, he will undoubtedly continue his activity and will assist the new treasurer, Larry Caldwell.



Gabler

Neal Gabler deserves a big hand for his many years as secretary. He becomes president of the Detroit Division and we may expect big things of him there. Other former members of the board, who will be missed, are Emil Lorch, now president of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A.; Al Herman, just retired as president of the Detroit Division; John Baker, who is in Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Clair Ditchy, our former A.I.A. regional director; Gus Langius, now president of the Grand Rapids Chapter, A.I.A.; Louis Kingscott, now president of the Southwest Michigan Division, and Al Harley.

Reports of division presidents brought out many interesting things as to how problems are being solved. A great deal of friendly rivalry was in evidence, which accounts in a large measure for the splendid membership record of the State Society. A membership of 545 of 724 architects registered in the state was reported. This represents about 75 percent or

83 percent of those resident in Michigan.

President Palmer added a few words to his annual report, printed in the pre-convention number. He said he had thoroughly enjoyed meetings with divisions and the opportunity it afforded to know members better. He quoted Al Harley as saying we should do it more often.

Gamber, as professional advisor, reported on the competition for Wayne University, and Carl Rudine on the exhibition at Hotel Olds during Convention.

On Friday afternoon, Frank Eurich, Jr. reported as liaison officer of the Producers' Council of Michigan. He said President Palmer had referred to him at the

Grand Rapids meeting as the missing link. However, it was not until he consulted the dictionary that he discovered the word meant illicit relationship. Frank gave a good account of his office and that splendid organization, which was very much in evidence at this convention.

Ken Black conducted a meeting on Unification, with the

result that his committee was instructed to continue its efforts to find a solution

suitable to all concerned.

Joseph V. McQuillen, consultant analyst, Division of Priorities, WPB, spoke on priorities and gave us much useful information. Watts A. Shelly, executive secretary of the Architects' Registration followed

Board, reviewed the work of his office and a lively question and answer period At the banquet Friday evening toastmaster, Bill Cory was introduced by President Palmer. Cory presented the



Black

O. S. HESS, vice-president, representing Bruce Buchanan, president of Michigan Engineering Society; L. B. RIED, deputy commissioner, representing G. Donald Kennedy, commissioner, State Highway Department, and member of Building Committee of State Administrative Board; PROF. EMIL LORCH, F.A.I.A., president, Detroit Chapter, The American Institute of Architects; HARRY T. WUNDERLICH, president, Detroit Builders and Traders Exchange; HON, THEODORE I. FRY, treasurer of Michigan and member of the Finance and Defense Committee of State Administrative Board.

distinguished guests at the speakers' table as follows:

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

HON. VERNON J. BROWN, auditor general of Michigan and member of Building Committee of State Administrative Board; E. DOUGLAS AINSLIE, JR., president, Producers Council of Michigan; C. W. LUCAS, press secretary to Gov. Van Wagoner, representing the Governor. (The Governor regretted very much that he could not attend this convention. He wished to convey to us that the job of winning the war is one for the architect, the engineer and the building industry.)

ADRIAN N. (GUS) LANGIUS, president, Grand Rapids chapter of American Institute of Architects. Mr. Langius is also director of Division of Buildings and Construction of State Administrative Board. W. B. BEADLE, representing Dr. Eugene B. Elliott, superintendent of public instruction. Dr. Elliott is also chairman of the Building Committee of the State Administrative Board and chairman of State Planning Commission. J. V. McQUILLEN, Division of Priorities, War Production Board; HENRY LIGHTNER, president, Grand Rapids Builders and Traders Exchange; F. C. PERRY, president Michigan Real Estate Association.

The toastmaster returned the meeting to President Palmer who made the presentation of honorary membership in the



Mr. Grylls

Society to H. J. Maxwell Grylls. In a fitting tribute he sketched the career of Mr. Grylls and mentioned the fine work that has made his firm of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls a great credit to our Society and to our profession. Amedeo Leone of that firm accepted for Mr. Grylls and in a few well chosen words told of Mr. Grylls' sojourning in the west, and brought us a message of good cheer from him.

Much fun was had with two former toastmasters, Clair W. Ditchy and Rod Allen. A special table, "reserved for past toastmasters," was set directly in front of Cory, who

recited to them the following poem:

And now at this time dear Friends, Our program to a serious moment bends; We have with us here tonight, Two Past Toastmasters in a sorry plight; They are both old Has-beens you know, Toastmasters of the long ago. And they were good ones in their day, Knew how to banter and to play; Who to call on and who to pass, And how to stop the loud braying ass; But Time marches on, and they, Good Toastmasters of yesterday, Now hold seats in the honored row, Toastmasters they of the long ago. And as they now pass in review, We'll call upon them for a word or two.

Allen responded by saying, "About this time of year the emperor of Japan goes into his garden, to compose his poem of the year. It is only two lines long. That's the only thing I like about the emperor of Japan."

Ditchy lawed that Cory had beat out both the former toastmasters, but he insinuated he did it by cutting his fee.

Music was by Carlton B. Eldridge, and this being the chief event marking the 28th Annual Convention of the Michigan Society, and the 6th Annual Michigan Building Industry Banquet, everything was swell, and should serve as a criterion for future conventions and future banquets.

The luncheon on Saturday, April 4, was the concluding event. It was presided over by Gus Langius, and the speaker was Captain Donald Leonard. He delivered a most inspiring address on civilian protection, which is covered elsewhere in this issue. A resolution was passed pledging the Society's support, and instructing each division to volunteer its services to the local authorities. Following the talk Emil Lorch said it was a stirring, comprehensive statement. "Architecture today isn't what it used to be," he said, pointing out that the Institute was formerly the only architectural organization, while now we have state societies with their divisions similar to Institute chapters, the Producers' Council, registration boards, association of collegiate schools of architecture, and other groups, all exerting their influence. "The Institute has stood for great advancement of the profession and is now doing a great work, as we become more integrated with the engineers and other planning professions," he concluded.

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BUILDING FOR VICTORY AND THE FUTURE

Address by Thomas S. Holden, President, F. W. Dodge Corporation, before the annual Convention of the Michigan Society of Architects, Lansing, Mich., Friday, April 3, 1942

Building for victory, according to the scheduled program of the War Production Board, consists in producing in the United States during the year 1942 a greater volume of construction than ever before, producing the needed structures in record time, and working against unusual difficulties with respect to labor supply, deliveries of materials and acute shortages of some highly important items. In addition to this job to be done in Continental United States, we must ship designers, builders, superintendents, skilled mech-

anics and essential materials across the seven seas to construct assembly plants, storage depots, air and naval bases, debarkation ports, and cantonments in all the other continents of the earth.

To accomplish this gigantic task, the construction industry is conscripted for the war. Last year it was conscripted to

the extent of about 50 per cent of its output; during the past three months, up to about 80 per cent. As soon as the long-expected order forbidding all civilian construction except that which is licensed as essential is promulgated, the industry will be conscripted 100 per cent. Just exactly as in the case of other war industries, the producing units in the construction industry are being obliged either to convert their facilities to war work, to secure prime contracts or subcontracts, to give up their private business and seek employment in war-construction organizations either pri-



Holden

vate or governmental, or go out of business. If the war construction program, which has slackened somewhat during the past three months, picks up and increases as anticipated by the War Production Board, there will be enough work during the remainder of this year and most of 1943 to employ practically all the facilities and practically all the technically competent people in the industry, provided the conversion to war purposes is promptly and adequately made.

The construction industry has been frequently called a backward industry; it has been criticised for its apparent lack of standardized procedures, its reputed lack of modern factory methods, its failure to resemble in all particulars the automotive industry. However, the most significant fact about the modern building industry, which has enabled it to make its great contributions to the country in peace and in war, is its immediate adaptability to new requirements and its capacity to turn itself at once to new kinds of jobs, a flexibility largely due to its lack of rigidly standardized and fully mechanized procedures. Our designers and builders are habitually accustomed to turn from schools and hospitals to large-scale housing projects, from large-scale housing projects to cantonments and airplane factories and Army bases and fortifications. It is an industry which, for conversion from peace-time production to war-time production, requires only a retooling of minds, which is for many of its members a continued and a customary procedure.

Very much as in the case of the manufacturing industries, the larger designing and contracting organizations were the ones first selected to take on war work. By reason of reputation, adaptability, and capacity to expand, they have until quite recently received the bulk of the war contracts. The smaller contracting and subcontracting organizations and the smaller architectural and engineering offices maintained business as usual with normal civilian work through most of 1941, until the necessities of material shortages brought curtailment of non-essential building. Their position today is very similar to that of the small manufacturer of metal products who is faced with the alternative of converting his plant, securing subcontracted war orders, or going out of business. For all of them business as usual is out for the duration.

Architects and engineers who are engaged on war projects are sharpening their minds on new design problems of various kinds. They are working on airplane factories, airports, cantonments, fortifications, naval bases, air-raid shelters, demountable houses, large scale site plans. They are

having to work to a new criterion of economy, economy in the use of metals and metal products. They are having to acquaint themselves with substitute materials and alternative methods. They, who have heretofore been bewildered by selection of the best within the wide range of materials and methods at their disposal, are having to exercise their utmost ingenuity in utilizing such second-best materials as they hope to get. They are having to work to rigid time schedules in turning out plans and specifications. They are having to work under previously undreamed-of business arrangements with new kinds of clients. Undoubtedly these far-reaching technical changes have a great significance for the future of architecture and architectural practice.

However, streamlined technical facility and changed building industry procedures will have little scope unless our post-war world is one of expanding opportunity and of economic and social progress. The prerequisite is victory. Defeat is unthinkable; it is possible, if our war effort is half-hearted, but its result would be, for us, a slave economy with totalitarian overlords engineering a world-economy in which prosperity and opportunity would be reserved for the master races. A negotiated peace would mean a stalemate, an armed truce, with a continuous tightening of our war economy until the point of exhaustion of resources or patience would be reached, ushering in World War III. Thinking and planning for any kind of future that the American people can willingly visualize must assume victory as the major premise.

Yet there are today appreciable numbers of honest and patriotic American men and women who seem to dread the consequences of victory almost as much as they dread the consequences of defeat. They support the nation's war effort as a matter of grim duty, unconplainingly for the most part, but without the fire of great hopes or expectations of making the world better for their children and their children's children

It seems to me that these pessimistic people are beset by understandable but basically unfounded fears. They fear that a public debt mounting to fabulous totals will bring about either a financial collapse, or at best, an intolerable burden of taxation upon future generations. They fear that the United States will slide into some form of national socialism. Some fear that our ally, Russia, whose economic and political philosophy is so different from our own, may make great trouble for us hereafter. Many fear, arguing upon what I believe to be false analogies to past situations, that a great and prolonged depression will be the inevitable result of this greatest of all war efforts. I cannot give you circumstantial proofs that these things are not to be, but I will try to sketch for you the reasons why I am not fearful of these dire predictions.

Being no expert in finance, the best that I can contribute to the discussion of that problem is to list certain observations relative to the situation. First, the Government is financing this war at 2½ per cent, instead of 4½ per cent as in World War I. At 2½ per cent, the annual interest item in our national budget to service a total debt of \$200,000,000,000 amounts to \$5,000,000,000; this is a very large sum relative to a national income of 4 to 60 billions but much less burdensome relative to a national income of 100 billion dollars or more. It is generally believed that the Government can and must adopt policies that will maintain national income at 100 billions or better in the postwar period. Furthermore, the debt we are now piling up is

entirely an internal debt owed to ourselves; payments on interest and on principal represent transfers of funds from American taxpayers to American bondholders, which may very considerably affect the fortunes of particular individuals and institutions, but not the total wealth or income of the country. Unless we are defeated and have to pay tribute to a conqueror, the debt imposes upon us no necessity of transferring real wealth, goods or services to other nations.

New experiments and now discoveries in the field of long-term finance have been the order of the day for ten years or more, in this and other countries. We in the building industry have seen in the operations of the H. O. L. C., the Federal Home Loan Bank System and the F. H. A. a transformation of mortgage-lending from a pawn broking system into a long-term credit system. We have seen the wide range of operations of the R. F. C., which have demonstrated that national credit can be used for long-term financing without direct reference to the current pool of savings.

Government debt has become very different from the thing it was when medieval monarchs pawned the crown jewels to raise funds to feed and pay their armies. Today, it is a matter of using national credit, principally for the purpose of stimulating maximum production. Total industrial production this year will be at least 50 per cent greater than in 1929; national income will be more than one hundred billion dollars, far in excess of the previous peak and much more than double the income of the lowest depression year 1933. A very sizeable proportion of current expenditures is being devoted to creating new productive facilities and another sizeable proportion is being devoted to the production of basic material much of which is likely to be salvageable hereafter. Much of it is being devoted to the building of new industries, such as aviation, synthetic rubber, tin-smelting, all with great potentialities for peacetime use. While war-finance today deals in figures that are almost beyond comprehension, we must remember that dollars are only claim checks for goods and services; ultimately we pay for what we get out of our resources and our productive activity. Debts and taxation will impose problems of stupendous magnitude, but I believe they will be manageable problems. I fear financial collapse and unbearable taxation only as a consequence of defeat and not as a consequence of victory.

With respect to the fear that this country will adopt some form of state socialism after the war, I can only say that among the more important government economists who are studying post-war problems the prevailing thought is maximum stimulation to private enterprise. This may seem an astonishing statement to many who have suspected the New Deal of strong tendencies toward state socialism. It is true that socialistic ideas have been greatly emphasized by literary radicals inside and outside of government, and are now being advocated by some of them for the post-war period. But responsible government administrators, who have gained intimate acquaintance with our productive system in their conduct of the war program, have come to realize, if they did not already do so, that, in order to maintain the four freedoms we talk about so much, we must maintain a fifth one, essential to all the rest-freedom of enterprise. Enlightened labor leaders are of the same mind. Many of the larger post-war problems will have to be dealt with by government policy-making and governmental programs of action, and there will be hot arguments as to the proper boundary line between governmental and private activity; but, assuming victory, I believe private enterprise is likely to have enlarged scope and opportunities, with effective government cooperation. With defeat, national socialism of some sort is practically guaranteed.

With regard to potential post-war difficulties with Russia, I can obviously not speak with any more authority than I can about the larger aspects of finance. Events of the past year have served to clear up many misunderstandings about the Soviet Government and the Soviet economy. They have shown us that, of the powers arrayed against the Axis, Russia was in peace-time the most realistic in appraising the menace of another war; it is the one anti-Axis power

that has been preparing for twenty-four years. Her very ruthlessness in imposing a new form of government and a new economic system upon her own people has been in part a ruthlessness deemed necessary to a war economy Her encouragement of subversive activities in other countries, which rightly aroused our resentment and suspicions. has been dictated, at least in part, by the belief that all other countries were potential enemies and that fifth-column activities were necessary as preparatory measures for war. Recognition of this does not imply condoning these subversive activities in our country, but it does suggest that more satisfactory live-and-let-live arrangements between Russia and this country can be worked out hereafter. Maxim Litvinov, Soviet Ambassador to the United States, one of the world leaders who worked most consistently and most earnestly for peace through the years since World War I said in a recent address in New York: "We are all interested in the speediest possible ending of the war, the speediest possible conclusion of a just peace treaty, enabling each nation to develop in accordance with its own aspirations and ideals, without inference from outside, and in no fear of war again breaking out." Russia does not appear to have any notions of world domination, but might consider herself to be top-dog in the post-war world if she makes the biggest contribution to victory. The way for the United States to have the biggest say at the peace-table, and the best opportunity for friendly arrangements with Russia and other allies, is to fulfill our promises of all-out aid and to make the contribution to victory for democracy that our own people and our allies expect us to make. Here again the thing we fear might come about as a consequence of defeat, and is far less likely to happen as a consequence of victory.

The fear that is perhaps most widely held by those who view the post-war future with great misgivings is based on the belief that the biggest war-effort of all time must inevitably result in the biggest post-war depression of all time. This theory of the inevitability of a great post-war depression seems to be based in large part upon the notion that the depression of the 1930's was simply and solely the outcome of World War I. To my mind, such an explanation of our last big depression is wholly inadequate.

It is my belief that most of the extremely painful adjustments of the past decade were avoidable results of general misunderstanding of our economic status and of grievous mistakes in national policies and of wrong judgments in national programs, in finance, and in direction of economic affairs. In 1929 and the years that followed, this nation went broke because it was rich, not because it was poor.

The decade of the 1930's was not a period of ordinary depression; it represented an historic turning point in the nation's economic growth. The immediate effect of World War I upon our economy was, in the 1920's, a short period of price deflation followed by a great wave of prosperity. Trouble came from failure to understand and control the boom and from failure to take into account basic economic changes of historic importance which had taken place.

These basic factors included: (1) the change of status from a debtor to a creditor nation; (2) a lessened rate of population growth, ushered in by immigration restriction in 1924; (3) completion of our railroad system, with respective to mileage, and other factors previously dominant in our extensive economic expansion; (4) rapid growth and coming-of-age of the automotive industry; (5) the revolutionary impact of all these factors upon real estate and the fundamentals of construction demand; (6) growth and collapse of foreign trade based upon unsound and unrealistic financing; and (7), perhaps most important of all, failure of the American nation to accept its responsibilities as an adult nation, and, on the basis of its economic and financial status, as a world power.

Twenty-three years ago circumstances made us the most powerful nation in the world. We shrank away from the responsibility; a whole generation got lost trying to run away from its destiny. The postman is ringing twice; opportunity again knocks at the door. But, in giving us a second chance, destiny is saying to us this time, "Make good or bust." We cannot achieve victory in the war or

n the period of peace with any spirit of defeatism or any nought that disaster is inevitable at either stage. In my pinion, an inseparable corollary of belief in a system of ree government and free enterprise is the conviction that conomic trends result from mass-decisions of men, not rom blind forces of nature; that no statistical charts of the ast need to serve as blue-prints for the future. No, the nly inevitability that free men have to recognize (except eath) is the grim necessity of paying for their mistakes, whether their mistakes be the wrong things that they do r the right things that they leave undone. The only things we ought to fear are disunity, halfheartedness, bungling fforts in the war and wrong judgments when we try to yin the peace.

Believing these things to be true, I hold the strong coniction that, in the period which will follow victory for us World War II, the people of the United States can enjoy greater and a more widely distributed prosperity than ver before in their history. I share most heartily the view xpressed by Wendell Wilkie in a speech he made last uly. He then said: "We are living in another period of oubt and confusion, but it, too, can be a creative age. For is an age not merely of economic opportunity-of oportunity to open up a new world in which our freedom vill be stronger because we shall have learned how to hare it more widely among ourselves and with others. We re on the verge of an era in which freedom will be no nan's specialty, but rather the common possesion of milons upon millions of people who cherish and defend it. ogether we will increase its rich rewards and insure its enefit to all men.'

Now, the post-war world will be no Utopia, nor will the otential prosperity that is in prospect be achieved cheaply, asily, automatically. Success is no more inevitable than is isaster. It will require great wisdom and superlatively good nanagement. There will be enormous problems of adjustment, both national and international, both economic and olitical. The job of winning the peace may be in some vays more complicated and more difficult than the job of vinning the war.

The political and economic arrangements made at the eace table will affect our post-war economy greatly. Arangements for policing the world and for maintaining peace vill determine the size of the military establishment the Inited States will maintain during the post-war era. It is inthinkable that we should disarm to the extent we did the ast time, or that we should again so completely dismantle ur arsenal of democracy. A certain amount of war prouction will doubtless continue. The reconstruction needs f the world will be tremendous and will require largecale assistance by the United States. Nor is it necessary r desirable that this be done on a philanthropic basis. The everal empires we are allied with today in the struggle gainst the Axis powers will have, if they regain lost teritories, vast resources in strategic materials essential to ur economy, such as rubber, tin, tea, jute and many of he important rare metals. These offer the opportunity for business arrangements to compensate for our share in the econstruction job. Possibilities of revival of international rade are being carefully studied by experts in that field; ur present trade relationship with Latin America will carcely be permitted to lapse. These matters of national olicy and peace-table diplomacy are beyond the immediate oncern of most of us here tonight; but the developments hat will take place in the international field will profoundly ffect our internal economy and will pay a part in determinng the extent of internal prosperity and construction acti-rity that we shall enjoy.

National policies affecting more directly our domestic economy are, however, of direct interest to most people in he building industry. They will require wisdom and good nanagement, too. Financial and tax policies will be all-mportant. It will be necessary that they be so well managed hat we escape any such serious price deflation as brought bout the shortlived though serious depression of 1920 and 921. It will be necessary to maintain national income at the hundred billion dollars or more, in order that the big lebt load can be carried and that as nearly as possible full

employment be maintained. If private enterprise is to carry the maximum possible share of post-war activity, future tax programs of Federal, State and local governments must be so devided that, while they will produce public revenues adequate to carry the total debt service and to meet currently necessary public expenditures, they will not be so repressive as to eliminate business profits and stifle incentive. It will be no easy task to devise such taxes, and, being no expert, I cannot tell you how it will be done. Defeatists say it cannot be done; but defeatists never even solve easy problems, much less hard ones. A solution must be found. Perhaps the way has been indicated by Congressman Angel of Oregon, who introduced in Congress a bill (H. R. 5196) proposing the creation of a National Tax Commission to study the whole range of taxation as now operated by our 175,000 existing taxing authorities. Since this measure has in times past been strongly advocated in principle by both President Roosevelt and Mr. Wilkie, it it difficult to understand why Congress has as yet failed to take positive action on the bill. Such a national tax study is one of the most urgent pieces of unfinished national business on our agenda and needs to be undertaken at once.

Of great importance will be the policies adopted with reference to disposal of surplus industrial and housing facilities. That is a fairly big problem, too, but it also ought to be a manageable one. Some of the new facilities will be needed for continued production of war materials on the appropriate peace-time scale. Such new and expanded industries as aviation and house-prefabrication will be readily converted to peace-time uses. Already airplanes are carrying freight to points all over the world, one indication of potential commercial expansion of this great industry. The possibilities of expanded peace-time uses of aluminum, in construction and in other fields, are very great. Many of our largest industrial corporations are today, even while devoting 100 per cent of productive capacity to implements of war, are developing new peace-time products in their research laboratories and are surveying potential peace-time markets. Our victory effort is giving to this nation what is incomparably the greatest array of productive facilities the world has ever dreamed of. Most of this newly created wealth will have to be utilized in the post-war period, if one hundred billion dollars of national income and reasonably full employment are to be maintained and if we are going to produce enough to service our war debts. The amount of industrial plant capacity that will be actually scrapped may turn out to be surprisingly small.

Following victory, there will be immediate demands for all kinds of goods and services resulting from the curtailments and postponements of the war period. The magnitude of such pent-up demands will naturally depend upon the duration of the period of curtailment. If automobiles, radios, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, and private residences are out of production no longer than twelve or eighteen months, the demand on resumption of production is apt to keep these industries working at full capacity for several years merely to catch up. In spite of taxes, there will be purchasing power, since the great mass of people in this country is now being forced to save or to invest in defense bonds that portion of its income which cannot at this time purchase non-existent goods. There will undoubtedly be some difficulties experienced in the transition period of reconversion of production facilities to peace-time activity, but even this job may be done surprisingly quickly. Again I say, we may have more difficulty controlling the post-war boom, than in dealing with problems of depression.

I have not recited all these things to you and displayed my optimism regarding the post-war future merely by way of pleasant entertainment to divert your minds and mine from the grim—the even tragic—realities of the moment. This is no time to try to escape reality by indulging in Utopian fancies. It is no time to minimize the sacrifices and the hard adjustments we must make in order to achieve victory, or to gloss over the fact that many lives will be lost and many promising careers cut short. It would be particularly unrealistic for the building industry to ignore the probability of a substantial decline in volume after the peak of the war construction program is reached, perhaps some-

time in 1943. But, I believe it is vitally necessary for us to appraise as best we can all the long-range possibilities of the situation, to see whether we are fighting for mere survival or for greater objectives and for the promise of great rewards. The dictators of the Axis powers have inspired their peoples, and particularly the younger generation, with glowing promises of a better world built out of the spoils of conquest. This country seeks no spoils of conquest, no domination of others by force, but its destiny requires that it assume leadership in a world that will provide broader opportunities for individual and peoples than any that history has yet recorded. I firmly believe that, if we are determined to carry the spirit of victory over into the post-war era, we can promise our young people far greater and more satisfying rewards than have been promised by Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito.

I will try to explain what all this has to do with building and architecture. When I was an architectural student at M.I.T. we had a very stimulating three-year course on European Civilization and Art; it was what we would call today an orientation course. It was designed to give the architectural student an appreciation of the way in which the great architects and master builders of the past produced great works by reason not only of their mastery of the techniques of their own times, but also by reason of their intimate awareness of the religious, social and political factors of the day and their capacity to make their works fully expressive of contemporary civilization.

Today it seems quite likely that the capital of western civilization has moved to this hemisphere. If it is going to be greater and finer civilization than that which we have previously enjoyed, as I firmly believe it will, our architects and master builders will have to orient themselves in the religious, social and economic life of the present time and of the foreseeable future. In the great adventure of creating the future, they will have to make a major contribution. On the more material plane of economics, it is, I think, essential to be able to visualize an expanding economic and social life, because it is only in such expansive times that people have the urge and the wherewithal to build.

If the post-war prosperity which I visualize as the possible or rather the probable-result of victory becomes an actuality, the demand for construction, as measured in annual dollar volume, is likely to be greater than anything we ever had before. There will be a large accumulated demand for houses and commercial buildings and public improvements caused by current postponements. There will be new needs incidental to the expansion of our economic activities. Work will be resumed on our highway and parkways; in all likelihood slum redevelopment, a necessary and longawaited program, will be undertaken in many of our large Post-war planning studies of governmental and private agencies alike assign a major role to construction in our post-war economy. One of the most carefully worked out private studies that has been made, that of the General Electric Company visualizes a possible total expenditure for the construction of all kinds, plus plant equipment, for the year 1946, assumed as a typical postwar year, of 23 billion dollars. This figure, vastly larger than any annual total yet realized in this country, is related in the estimates to an assumed national income of 110 billions of dollars. This is not a prediction, but a statement of an attainable objective. Such an unprecedented figure may surprise you. But, I ask to consider, if you will, the potentialities of the greatest productive plant ever created in the history of the world, when 90 per cent of it will be devoted to turning out the goods and implements of peace instead of the mere 40 to 50 per cent that will be devoted to civilian products this year and next.

Nor is it necessarily true that such enormous construction programs will consist principally of government work. Commenting on the General Electric estimates, David C. Prince, vice president of that company and president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, says: "It is my hope that private industry is going to so organize itself that it will be able to set up a reserve of private projects sufficient to take care of practically all of this 23 billion, and the amount that we will have to pay in taxes will be in-

versely proportional to our success. That is, if we caprovide almost all the 23 billions in private projects won't have to pay taxes to support the rest of it. Or, more exactly, we will pay taxes to support the rest of it, but the rest of it will be small."

In the main, I would say that I share Mr. Prince's hop We must realize, however, that private construction must always be accompanied by sizeable expenditures for neces sary community facilities. For that reason I believe th proposals that have been made for setting up a publi works reserve are sound, and represent a very essential program that should be undertaken at the earliest momen. The proposal fell by the wayside in the House of Representatives during the recent Congressional revolt agains boondoggling, but it will be revived. Soundly projecte and soundly administered, a public works reserve program represents a necessary part of adequate post-war plannin and a highly appropriate use during wartime of such planning and designing talent as may not be employed directly in the victory effort.

There will undoubtedly be some stiff arguments betwee advocates of gigantic government programs and those wh believe that private construction demand can be responsible for a major proportion of the total activity necessary to maintain investment and employment at sufficiently highevels. In one important sector, the forces are being mare shalled today. There is in preparation a bill to be in troduced in Congress, which if passed would authorize Federal subsidies for urban rehabilitation programs. Of the other hand, many people believe this job can be done without financial aid from the Federal government. Proponents of the redevelopment laws that have been enacted during the past twelve months in New York, Michigan, Illinois, and Kentucky, believe this job can be done, perhaps les quickly but also perhaps more soundly, by local initiative

and private capital. Whether one or the other or bot of these methods will be used, the job will be undertake on a vast scale. It is another big piece of unfinishenational business.

To enumerate all the kinds of building and engineerin structures that will be needed to regenerate and advance twentieth century American Civilization is beyond my capa city. The needs will call for all the creative talents ou architects and engineers may possess. The needs should inspire them to greater achievements than any we have yet seen. I ask you to recall the transformations wrough in previous eras by the building of railroads and industria centers. Think back over the specialized demands create by the automobile-highways, parkways, toll bridges, factor ies, filling stations, roadside restaurants, tourist camp parking garages in cities, bus terminals, suburban commun ities, built-in garages in our modern houses; the contri bution of the automobile to our way of life has only been partly expressed in fitting architectural forms and com munity patterns; the modifications it has effected in ou structures have not yet reached the end. This great in dustry will come to life again in the post-war period an will demand more new structural types. The airplan industry has created an ever-increasing demand for hangars airports, terminals. Can anyone today set limits to th future possibilities of this industry and the future demand it will make for new types of buildings? What will th availability of cheap aluminum mean to construction? Wha of the possibilities of prefabricated houses, which are find ing in the victory program their first opportunity for large scale demonstration? What of the many needs for planne residential communities, for recreational facilities? evolving demand for better buildings for family living better facilities for a motorized and air-minded generation for recreation, education, health, and civilized community life will challenge all the ingenuity and creative ability that we can find. If victory does not ultimately result in truly great American architecture, we shall have proved unequal to our task.

So, building for victory is building for the future, and for a future in which architecture and building will occup the key position they have always occupied in an era o vital expanding civilization. But, I firmly believe that the great architecture our revitalized civilization will demand

vill be an architecture keyed to the future and not to the ast. The present time of trial and adjustment, and the ost-war period of reconversion of building industry talents nd facilities to peace-time purposes may serve as a time testing the design ideas, the professional and business ractices and the designing and building organizations that re fitted to survive. Our fight for freedom is a fight for urvival as a nation; but it is much more than that. It is fight for opportunity, for the right to carry the torch of restern civilization; a fight for the chance to create our wn future and to make it just as good a future as our ntelligence and our determination and our good-will may nerit. When we say our prayers for victory, let us also ray that we may prove worthy of the great opportunities hat victory will bring.

Palmer Reelected Architects' Head SIX OTHER DETROITERS ELECTED AT LANSING CONVENTION

C. William Palmer, of Detroit, will continue as president f the Michigan Society of Architects for the coming year. Ie was reelected at the closing session of the Society's 28th nnual Convention in Lansing, on April 4.

Other Detroiters elected are John C. Thornton, 1st viceresident; Earl W. Pellerin, secretary; Lawrence E. Caldwell, reasurer; Talmage C. Hughes, executive secretary; Chester . Baumann and Branson V. Gamber, directors.

James A. Spence, of Saginaw, was elected 2nd vice-presient, and Harry L. Mead, of Grand Rapids, 3rd vice-presient. The following will complete the directorate: Roger Illen, Grand Rapids; David E. Anderson, Marquette; Wells Bennett and Lynn W. Fry, Ann Arbor; Kenneth C. Black nd Carl Rudine, Lansing; A. B. Chanel, Battle Creek, and mil Zillmer of Grand Rapids.

The convention was devoted chiefly to the architects' part n the Nation's victory program, including addresses by Capain Donald S. Leonard, state commander of the Civilian Deense Corps, Joseph V. McQuillen, consultant analyst of the ivision of priorities, War Production Board, and Thomas S. Holden, president of F. W. Dodge Corporation.

The custruction industry will be the next great business o be converted 100 percent to America's war effort, Mr. Holden said at the annual banquet. Speaking before nearly 00 persons, he declared that the construction industry has een conscripted to the extent of about 80 percent for the var during the first three months of 1942. He estimated that 0 percent of the industry was devoted to the war effort last

Holden declared that as soon as the long-expected order orbidding all civilian construction except that which is icensed as essential is promulgated, the industry will be concripted 100 percent.

He said, however, that if plans of the war production board naterialize there will be sufficient work this year and next o employ virtually all of the facilities and technically cometent people in the industry, "provided the conversion to var purposes is prompt and adequately made."

The building industry, Holden continued, is faced with its piggest job. It must produce in 1942 its greatest volume of onstruction, produce the needed structures in record time while beset with shortages of labor and vital materials. In ddition, he pointed out, the industry must send designers, builders, superintendents, skilled workers, and essential maerials "across the seven seas to construct assembly plants, torage depots, air naval base, debarkation ports and cantonnents in all the other continents of the globe."

McQuillen, consultant analyst of the WPB's division of priorities, gave the society technical details of priority sysems under various government building programs.

"Houses created under the defense housing program," he said, "because of priorities leave a lot to be desired but they lo provide shelter."

"Japan is winning today on every single front and America an lose unless we quit bickering and go to work," Captain

Leonard said, in a stirring address before the closing session Saturday afternoon.

The speaker didn't mince words as he warned of great



Capt. Leonard

dangers and declared that vicious Nazi propaganda today is being spread through out the land to divide the nation and to create ill feeling toward Great Britain and our Allies.

Captain Leonard said the bombing of midwestern cities is possible and probable, declaring that it might be a good thing if a few bombs were dropped in the center of this country as it would awaken the people.

Japan Has Been Winning

"We must realize that Japan has been winning this war," he emphasized. "They are fighting and winning on six fronts over an area three-fourths the size of the United States. Japan can win and we can lose.

"We must go to work and win a decisive and complete victory," Captain Leonard continued, pointing out that we wouldn't be in a war today if the victory of the World War had been complete 25 years ago.

"Hitler, in his book, Mein Kampf, predicted that we as a nation would be fighting among ourselves, and today the Nazi agents are spreading their dirty, rotten, vicious propaganda to divide us against our Allies. We must realize that England is fighting our common foe. The United Nations must act together in the common cause of wiping out Hitler."

The speaker told of his visit to England last summer and devoted much of his talk to high praise for the spirit, the sacrifice and the confident determination of the English

"We are engaged in the greatest struggle in history and upon its outcome depends the future of civilization. There must be no slowing down, no stopping of our work until victory is ours," Captain Leonard continued.

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Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation presents a special exhibit of products having to do with the industrial field such as blackout suggestions, roof insulation, cold insulation and filters for air conditioning. The display should prove most interesting, coming at a time when all those

connected with the building industry are thinking an working in line with the National Victory program.

The exhibit will start Tuesday and Wednesday, April 2 and 22nd at the Statler Hotel, and continue on Thursday Friday and Saturday at Room 524 in the New Center Building

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DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 28, 1942

No. 17

CHAPTER MEETS IN ANN ARBOR

Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. met at the Michigan Union in Ann Arbor on Wednesday, April 15, conforming to policy established some years ago of holding a Spring meeting at the University together with the many Chapter members there and with the Chapter's Student Branch.

On this occasion Emil Lorch, F.A.I.A., president of the hapter, called upon Wilmer Nuechterlein, winner of the hapter student award last year, who showed colored slides f his 1500-mile trip through Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, lew York and back to Michigan. He started from Bay ity, where he had been employed in the office of Joseph oddeyne, and the showing was a good account of his tewardship. The award is for the purpose of enabling n outstanding student to continue his education by a limit-d amount of travel.

Walter M. Laitala was announced as the winner this year. Malcolm R. Stirton, of the office of Harley & Ellington, rchitects & Engineers, also showed colored slides, of the lorace H. Rackham Memorial Building, housing the Enineering Society of Detroit and the University of Michian Extension Division, which building has recently been ompleted by that firm.

In calling upon Mr. Stirton, President Lorch stated that he Chapter had long been desirous of including in its prorams something in the nature of a clinic, in which doctors all their fellow practitioners of what they have learned. This idea has not gone very far in architecture, but Mr. tirton made an excellent presentation. A similar one, held the Chapter's last annual meeting, was the occasion of fir. W. E. Kapp's talk on defense plants done by the firm of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls.

Stirton, a distinguished graduate of the University's Colege of Architecture and holder of the George G. Booth ellowship, was in charge of design on the Rackham Memoril Building. In addition to the picture, he brought with him a set of the architectural drawings which were of great interest to all, and particularly to the students.

Stirton pointed out that the building was unusual in a number of ways. One was that the clients did not know what their requirements were, and they followed a rather detailed procedure of questionnaires to the membership. From this they gathered various data concerning the constituent groups which guided the architects in their planning. As might be expected of a group of engineers, the Engineering Society of Detroit went about it in a most interesting manner and the architects prepared a complete setup covering finances, upkeep and every item of the budget. The speaker explained that the preparation of plans and specifications became the easiest part of the task. He concluded that the building was complete in every detail, including furnishings, fabrics and everything except a cash register with a dollar in the till. His pictures showed the lovely drinking fountain which was executed and given to the building by Mrs. Mary Chase Stratton of Pewabic Potteries. The late William B. Stratton was a most active member of The Engineering Society.

The building, taken as a whole, both from the standpoint of exterior and interior, is a gem of excellence, admirably adapted to its purposes, undoubtedly the finest of its kind in America.

At the conclusion of Stirton's talk, President Lorch stated that he was grateful and very proud of the excellent program covering a building which is bound to have a profound effect on the people who use it.

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Mr. aton's Article

This note Wust to express my appreciation for Bulletin." Thile I am not at present engaged the find of architecture, I somehow find time to devour very issue. Henry Stanton's article on Modern Architecture as particularly fine. After reading this article, it occurred me that Dr. Gropius might appreciate having a copy of ame if he is not already on your mailing list.

What is the Michigan Society doing about this housing mess Detroit? It seems to me that this is a great opportunity for our organization to take the bull by the horns and really o something. No one knows better than I that these things re more easily said than done, especially in Detroit. Neverneless, I do feel that this is an opportunity that should not be issed. The "Arch. Forum" did a fine job of exposing the roblem—now I feel that it is up to the architects in Michigan do all they can to help find the best solution as rapidly as ossible. Winning this war will be a difficult task; while the eneral public is not at all aware of the part that the archiects can and should play, the men in the profession should, nd now is their great chance to do something while the nips are down.

Unfortunately for ourselves, our enemies are miles ahead fus in housing, and this is due largely to the efforts of some the leading architects of pre-Nazi Germany, many of hom are residing in this country now. Their efforts to imrove conditions here have not yet been felt. It is my sincere mbition to carry on their ideals, in spite of the apparent dif-

culties of the task. If you send the April 14 issue to me I shall deliver it to

r. Gropius. Sincerely, Ralph D. Peterson, Jr., U. of M, 1941,

9 Farrar St., Cambridge, Mass.

From the Atlantic Monthly "In the March issue I believe you will have a special interst in the paper 'Architects of Defense' by Albert Kahn. No onder this witty, modest little Detroiter who builds the bigest, the most, and the soonest, has been called the 'one-man oom'! In a time of stress and confusion he has come through ith innovations which will surely play an important part in ne blue-prints of industry for years to come.

'I have already read several of Mr. Kahn's things in the lichigan Bulletin,' writes Walter T. Rolfe, a member of the merican Institute of Architects Committee on Educaion. 'He doing a distinguished thing for our profession. Thanks to ou for recognizing it and doing something about it'.

This letter was forwarded by Ken Black, who adds the omment: "Thought you might like to know the Bulletin is ven mentioned in subscription publicity for such a high oned magazine as The Atlantic Monthly.'

Public Information

D. Knickerbacker Boyd is now conducting a page on P. I. The Empire State Architect, official publication of the Y. State Association of Architects. He recently got into he Congressional Record his appeal for funds for the preseration of historic buildings in Philadelphia. More power to ou, Dave.

Chairman Harrison of the Public Information Committee eported that the National Publicity Committee has been and very active, and referred the members to the Chapter fulletin as to the action that committee recommends. Among ther things, they suggest that members write articles of ublic interest that newspapers will accept as news, and have hem published in their local papers. Copies of these are to e sent to the National Committee and they, in turn, will elect and edit a series of these articles to be sent out to a ewspaper syndicate.—Central Illinois Chapter, A.I.A.

C. William Palmer has moved to 409 Griswold St.; Carlton . Campbell, to 13164 Chestnut St., Wyandotte; H. Augustus 'Dell, to 2457 Woodward Ave.; Clair W. Ditchy, to 409 Grisold St.; Frank A. Miles, to 15545 Mack Ave., where he will pecialize in industrial work.

ANNOUNCING

Meeting of Members

Detroit Chapter, A. I. A.

Wolverine Hotel, May 6, 1942 Dinner at 6:00 P. M .- \$1.50

GUEST: WALTER DORWIN TEAGUE

ALSO ELECTION OF DELEGATES, A.I.A. CONVENTION Mr. Teague, emment authority on Industrial Design, will speak briefly at the dinner, following which the meet-ing will adjourn to the Central Methodist Church to hear his lecture on "Design This Day," at 7:45; auspices, Central Methodist Church, Admission 25c, Students 10c.

The public is invited to the lecture. Students and drafts-

men will be welcome at the dinner.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL MEET AT 4:00 P. M., Office of Harley & Ellington, 1507 Stroh Bldg.

Nation's Architects to Meet in Detroit

Professor L. C. Dillenback of Syracuse University has been appointed chairman of a national committee to direct arrangements for the seventh-fourth annual meeting of the American Institute of Architects to be held in Detroit on June 23, 24 and 25, it is announced by Richmond H. Shreve of New York, president of the Institute.

Members of the Producers' Council, national organization of manufacturers of building materials, and delegates from seventy-one Chapters of the Institute throughout the country, will participate in sessions devoted to the discussion of wartime and postwar problems in design and building. State Associations of Architects, the Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, as well as the Producers' Council, will meet concurrently with the Institute.

Postwar planning and construction, the function of the architect in wartime design and building, and programs of education in architectural schools will be the themes of special symposia. Reports will be presented on numerous phases of the architectural and building field, including participation of architects in civilian defense, urban and rural land use, industrial relations, new materials, technical services, and foreign relations.

Dean Walter R. MacCornack of the School of Architecture of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, vice president of the Institute, will preside at a session devoted to postwar planning and construction. William Pope Barney of Philadelphia, chairman of the Institute's committee on education will lead a discussion of programs of education in architecture. "The Existing Situation of the Profession" and "Youth Movement and Unification" will be topics of other symposia.

Albert Kahn of Detroit, noted industrial architect, will be principal speaker at the annual dinner of the Institute on Wednesday evening.

Dow Plans Freeport Hospital

Alden B. Dow of Midland is the architect of a new onestory 34-bed hospital being built at Freeport, Texas, and now under construction. The structure is being erected by the United States government as part of the defense plant program and will cost \$168,000, it is stated.

The building is located at Velasco across the river from Freeport and is under the Defense Plant Corp. and will serve the area acting as a center for Camp Chemical. It will provide departments for dentistry, eye examination and some

quarters for nurses and doctors.

Architect Dow, who has been spending much time in Texas, also designed the layout for Camp Chemical where 3000 temporary homes will be built and 24 barracks. The camp will have its own police and fire hall, post office and general offices, general store, large cafeteria and recreation hall, all of which is government built.

Under the camp plan a utility house is provided for every 16 homes and special laundry facilities for every 60 houses.

Those who live in the camp are those connected with work in the Freeport projects.

The Billion Dollar Question

MARSHALL GARDNER LINDSAY, A. I. A. From the Charette

In a world where the vocabularies of all languages express little but hatred and destruction, inspiration to think constructively, to create and to anticipate becomes a task which seems beyond mortal ability. Moreover, so warped has our thinking become that to entertain any thought beyond our present defense becomes treason to our cause. Upon reflection, however, is any thought rational which does not probe beyond the present for a conclusion? Is any conception complete without a birth? Is any cause worthy of defense because of its past glory if it holds no promise of a better future?

Living in the chaotic present or upon a past which was glorious leads to a common destination . . . nowhere. It is only to the future that we may look for improvement. The past is gone and the present lasts but a short moment. The future is infinite and with it will come problems to be solved and with the solutions presented will come the answers to our question, "What does the future offer?" What is the architect, the greater part of whose tiem is spent in finding new solutions for new and varied problems, doing or planning to do about the problems which will be presented by our post-war period? What problems will be presented within the scope of his own ability and how will he meet them?

I think that the profession must decide immediately, unanimously and precisely the scope of its ability. Having done that it must so announce it to the world positively, by paid advertisement with colored illustrations if necessary (and I am convinced that it is necessary without alternative), or resign itself to subservience to governmental bureaus, corporation control or another profession. Bluntly, we have reached the point where we must justify our existence in the contemporary scheme and demand the existence to which we are justly entitled. Incidentally we have just about worn out our kid gloves and cats' paws in the handling of public relations to date and still have gotten nowhere.

Let us assume that we have weathered the present storm, that our profession has been unified and that our public relations have become a reality instead of just an A.I.A. committee discussion. Can we then become an active element in post-war recovery and rehabilitation?

We can be an important element in the coming post-Axis period only by having AND PRESENTING positive plans and solutions to the problems most likely to be encountered. To do this we must attempt to determine what some of the problems are likely to be. I suggest one.

In almost every part of this country, new industrial plants are being built, many of them strategically located where none existed before. Large portions of our population are being shifted to operate these new plants. Defense housing is being built to house these populations in these new population centers. With the war brought to a successful close, with the need for defense production no longer existing, with defense industries having no further use for these plants, would it not be wise to suggest to our government the vital necessity to now plan ways and means of converting these plants for peacetime production? Many of them could replace obsolete facilities in other locations, some could be converted for the mass production of new products made from newly developed plastics and other materials heretofore not used. In this way the investment values of these new properties could be realized, depopulation and unemployment could be reduced to a minimum, population density would be reduced in our over-crowded industrial centers and a post-war depression could be avoided. The study of ways and means will, of course, be a giagantic task and I certainly have not attempted such a study. All of the necessary research and detail will have to be done by intelligent, unselfish, non-partisan individuals intent on solving the problem to the benefit of the nation. If our industrialists, labor leaders, political big-wigs and economists are the "experts" which their publicity agents proclaim them to be, this problem will be solved.

New communities require certain essential facilities churches, schools, community centers, theaters, shop, the centers, garages, warehouses, bus stations, airports (especially because of the greatly increased airplane manufacturing facilities), houses, municipal buildings, power plants, telephone buildings, sewage disposal plants and athletic fields Certainly, many of these cannot be built under existing conditions and many of those which will be, of necessity built will be of a temporary or inadequate nature. I believe that architectural construction will be in demand because of the back-log created by unfavorable conditions now in force. Who is going to do the job when the jam breaks?

Hint: If the architectural profession, within narrow and very thin shell of its INTER-Professional ethics, allow future business to follow in the footsteps of urban housing development of past years—to the speculative developer and the large industrial buildings of the better sort—to the construction company or corporation departmental staff it serves it justly should it cease to survive as a profession

New Glass Material For Blackout

DETROIT, April 21.—A new, blast-cushioning, incombustible glass fiber material for blacking out war production plants was announced by Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp.

The material is designed to reduce damage from concussion and to provide protection against the spread of fircaused by incendiary bombs or explosives.

Methods of blacking out industrial plants were demonstrated in an exhibit at Hotel Statler, attended by architects industrial engineers, builders and manufacturers of the Detroit area, which President Roosevelt recently warned mighbe an objective of enemy bombers.

The exhibit covered use of the new material and othe glass fiber products as permanent or semi-permanent win dow coverings and as inferior facings for exterior walls of

industrial buildings.

Known as Fiberglas OC-9 Board, the new material is composed of fine, resilient glass fibers compressed and treated with a binder which gives it sufficient rigidity to serve as a self-supporting, fire-resistant material. The material can be faced with glass fiber cloth, plywood, of other surfacing materials.

Experience in England has shown that even fairly distan bombing may prove highly destructive to industrial operations by shattering windows, scattering death-dealing glas

fragments, and disrupting delicate instruments.

Although the concussion-absorbing qualities of the compressed glass fibers cannot provide protection against nearbblasts, the resilient, light-obscuring and protective material may prove of definite value by absorbing part of the concussion caused by explosions.

In addition to their incombustibility and shock-absorbing properties, all of the glass fiber products designed to contribute to the air-raid protection of industrial plants provide a high degree of heat-loss reduction and sound absorption. Both of these latter properties are important to the war economy because of the improved working condition and fuel savings which they make possible.

Interior plant noises generated by machinery and processes can be greatly reduced in their perceptible intensity by the sound absorption properties of the glass fiber materials used as blackout screens, partitions, or as an all-ove interior surface treatment. Experience has shown that noise reduction is a decided aid to increased production because of

lessened worker fatigue.

Where large window areas are to be covered for the duration of the war, use of the glass fiber blackout materials can save 60 to 90 per cent of the heat ordinarily lost through the glass. Fuel saved through reduction in heat loss cuts manufacturing costs and reduces the load on the nation's over-burdened transportation system.

The Detroit exhibit is the first showing of the use of glas fiber materials for blacking out existing industrial plants. Large quantities of glass fiber products were, however, used for heat insulation and sound absorption in the fire and shatter-resistant walls, and the fire-resistant roofs, of two huge blackout bomber assembly plants already built.

cts Post-War Scarcity of All Types of Housing

ity of all types of housing will create a staggering the building industry when the war is over, William two, fellow of the American Institute of Architects, in a report to the Institute. Thousands of small we erected for war industry workers will be useless temergency, according to Mr. Ludlow.

financial aid will be necessary if the building into avoid post-war disaster, Mr. Ludlow points out, public not to insist on a "hands off" policy by the nt. The totalitarian setup required by war cannot ed overnight without dire consequences, he warns, to the building industry but to many other activimust get on their feet again if this nation is to conomically.

imate indicates that in the decade after the war we 13,000,000 new homes," Mr. Ludlow says. "Nor will see be cut down by the use of the thousands of new being erected today for war workers. Most of these in places where they will not be needed, and many shacks than houses. It is true that some are of the ole type that can be taken apart and the parts led. It is probable that platform trucks will carry see bodily to new sites, but the housing thus probe merely a drop in the bucket.

are approximately 40,000,000 dwelling units in this by 1945, 30 per cent of them will be fifty years old, ast the limit that the average house or apartment decently habitable condition. People are not going uch homes if they can help it.

st remember too that our population is increasing rom 1930 to 1940 we added 9,000,000 people to our nd this rate of increase is likely to be maintained. so more significant than the population increase is at the marriage rate has risen greatly, and along to birth rate.

porant is the increase in the number of families, increase in marriages and to the fact that families smaller than formerly. More dwellings are needed to same number of people. Vacancies are now very places, and practically non-existent for rentals a month in most of all defense areas.

duration, practically nothing will be done in slum one of the most pressing problems that has forced a for years past, for slums affect health, crime, d taxation. Statistics show that even now, if we a half way job of slum clearance we would need ew housing units.

dly necessary to add that obsolescence and deteriply to all such types of buildings as hospitals, urches, municipal and public buildings of all kinds, see waterworks, sewage disposal systems, and the ities, and thousands of miles of new roads and r work, and the sum total of building work is

posits and insurance investments available for ill probably be greater at the termination of the hey are now, because on the average people are one money, Mr. Ludlow points out. "Even so, ney will not be enough," he continues. "We shall rill probably get large sums of Federal money. For se agreed that it is as necessary to win the peace as war. We cannot possibly win the peace, either ywhere else in the world if we sink down into follapse. A continued provision of Federal funds is ing that will keep us from it.

be that there will be insistent demands that this is expenditure of money by the Government shall earliest possible moment. We don't want governool, and we don't want the government in business, he time after the war, during the readjustment newsy millions of men finding new jobs and thousands see being converted to peace production, it will be that the Government continue financial assistance

like it or not."

Men at Work

WANTED—In Detroit Architects' offices, draftsmen and architects for large defense work and housing jobs, on salary as draftsmen, superintendents, etc. Communicate with the Bulletin.

CIVIL SERVICE—There is an immediate need for 16 or more men with education and experience in the field of Architecture or Architectural Engineering to work for the housing agencies of the United States Government in the Detroit area.

The salary on these positions ranges from \$2600 per annum to \$4600 per annum. Interested applicants are urged to contact the Representative of the United States Civil Service Commission in Room 402, Federal Bldg., Detroit, Michigan.

Commission in Room 402, Federal Bldg., Detroit, Michigan.

Architects are being sought to fill Federal positions in the war program it was announced recently by the Civil Service Commission at Washington. Optional fields of architecture in which persons may qualify are design, specifications, and estimating. The salaries range from \$2,000 for junior architects to \$3,200 a year for associate architects. Sufficient eligibles at these grades to meet anticipated government needs were not obtained from the architect examination announced a year ago. No written test is required. Applicants' qualifications will be determined from their experience and training.

Architects appointed in design will survey work under construction, and do research in the factors affecting architectural design. Persons working in specifications, will write architectural specifications requiring knowledge of all classes of craftsman ship and materials. The duties of persons appointed for estimating work will be to estimate from sketches the costs involved in all phases of building.

For the \$2,000 positions, completion of a 4-year architectural or architectural engineering course at a recognized college or university is required. Senior students who will complete their college courses within 6 months from the date of filing application may apply. For the other positions work in one of the options over a two-year period must be shown, in addition to appropriate architectural or engineering education or experience. Experience as draftsman, involving routine drafting or developing of plans not requiring basic original investigations or developments, will not be considered as qualifying. There are no age limits.

Qualified persons are urged to apply at once. Applications will be accepted at the Commission's Washington office until the needs of the service have been met. Forms for applying may be obtained at first- and second-class post offices throughout the country, or direct from the Commission.

New Defense Blanket Insulation

A new insulating blanket especially developed for defense construction has been announced by the Wood Conversion Company, manufacturers of Balsam-Wool Sealed Insulation. This new product—Defense Blanket—has been enthusiastically approved by builders of defense houses both for "on the job" use and for pre-fabricating purposes.

Defense Blanket like Balsam-Wool is a completely sealed insulation covered by a waterproof paper on both sides and is flanged on the edges for quick, permanent application. It is available in rolls or may be cut in varying lengths to fit job requirements.

Its light weight, ease of handling and low cost have made it very attractive material for defense houses of all types. Prefabricators find that it can be readily and securely applied in place at the factory and deliverey on the job in first class condition. Contractors on the job find that it is equally easy to apply for their type of operation. Complete information may be obtained from the Wood Conversion Cmpany, St. Paul, Minnesota.

As a time-saver for busy readers, the Public Library regularly compiles and publishes lists of books on general and special subjects. In most cases each book mentioned is briefly described. Publications selected for inclusion are among the best available on the topic. These lists may be obtained free at the Main and branch libraries.

Among the current lists are "Victory Gardening," "Housing for Tomorrow," "Homemaking," "Modern Art," and "Your Diet and Your Health."

Columbia Dean Named Ware Professor of Architecture

Dean Leopold Arnaud of the Columbia University School or Architecture has been named Ware Professor of Architecture at Columbia, it is announced by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of the University. The appointment of tive of the leading architects of New York City to the Committee of Visitors in the School was also announced.

Dean Arnaud, who is chairman of the Division of Pan American Affairs of the American Institute of Architects and president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, is the second recipient of the Ware Chair. Established in 1929 in honor of Professor Robert Ware, founder of the School of Architecture in 1881, the Chair was awarded to William A. Boring, then dean of the School, who held it until his retirement in 1934.

Charles Butler, president of the New York State Board of Examiners for Architects, has been chosen chairman of the Committee on Visitors. Appointed to act in an advisory capacity to the faculty and as a liaison group between the School and the practicing profession, the Committee also includes Arthur Loomis Harmon, member of the firm of Shreve, Lamb, and Harmon, designers of the Empire State Building; Geoffrey Platt, of Charles A. Platt Sons, residential architects; T. Merrill Prentice, of Adams and Prentice, designers of Hartford, Conn., life insurance buildings, and Edward D. Stone, one of the designers of the Modern Museum of Art in New York City.

The Committee of Visitors succeeds four New York architects who have served since 1934. C. Grant LaFarge, original chairman of the Committee, died in 1937 and was succeeded by William F. Lamb. Other members of the retiring Committee are Ralph Walker and Wallace K. Harrison. Mr. Butler, the new chairman, was also a member of the older group. Both the appointment of the new committee and the awarding of the Ware Chair will be effective on July 1, 1942.

Dean Arnaud was born in New York City on March 2, 1895. He was graduated from the Lycee Janson de Sailly of the University of Paris and received the Bachelor of Architecture Degree from Columbia in 1918 and the Master of Science Degree in Architecture from Columbia in 1933. From 1919 to 1924 he was a student at the Paris Ecole des Beaux Arts. In 1924 he was made Architecte Diplome par le Gouvernement Francais, an honorary post given to architects by the French Government.

From 1924 to 1932 Dean Arnaud was an architectural designer in New York City. Appointed lecturer on the history of architecture at Columbia in 1929, he became an instructor in architecture at the University in 1932, an associate in 1933, and assistant professor and acting dean of the school in 1935. He has been full professor and dean since 1937.

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Mayor Jeffries has announced the appointment of Otis Winn, architect, of 1600 Seward, to the City Plan Commission for a term ending March 1, 1945. Winn succeeds Walter J. Rozycki, resigned.

Correcting a Fossible Imp. essi-

In the March 3 issue of the Weekly Bulletin, ar swers to questionnaires on unification, the commen Harold V. Maurer of South Bend, Indiana were follows:

"I think your proposed plan is excellent, except straint should be put on unethical architects from office and having control of things, such as we Indiana. Boys working for lumber companies, etc., have equal say."

Our attention has been called to the fact that this to more than one interpretation. Let it be here em stated that the editor's interpretation was that "su have in Indiana" referred to "some restraint" an "unethical architects from holding office." We would not subscribe to the latter.

Post-War Architectural Pattern

There are plenty of indications that present are raising hob with architects. Some whose ta connections fit into the defense picture, are too comfort. Others, less fortunate, have too little to

It is from these latter men that there will dideas to contribute much to the pattern of architecthe war. The others are too busy working in todation to think about the future.

The going will be tough for many capable are it will be for many men in other professions and but architecture has come through tough times be from this present fire of adversity there will, in other merge new and useful contributions to architectually. There are three that look reasonably sur

First, we believe that it is utterly impossible with the leisure for abstract thinking, men wit and imagination, to avoid the development of n and methods for giving the buyer more for his do it will be done we don't know, but we are sure war's end will see sounder methods of prefabrics short cuts to bigger value, new ways of doing the better, faster, more economically than ever be need for it is the air, and where a human rurgent as this one, there has always arisen a could do the trick.

Then we believe it quite possible that from group of men there may come a new technique of a strong and vibrant handling of the modern of mass and line—a fresh, functional type of d will forever free the public mind of the belief that means grocery-box houses.

Lastly, we very much hope that from these come a better understanding, by the public, of the and status of the architect—a greater appreciate architect's work—and a fuller recognition of his performance. We do not profess to know the answold problem, but we are sure that it eventually through the profession becoming more articular insistent on recognition being accorded its me every city and town.—The Von Duprin Magazine.

Miscellany

Robert S. Hutchins and Caleb Hornbostel, architects, have been appointed to the faculty of Union Art Schools, it is announced by Dean Clark. Leave of absence has been granted to Rich Snow, architectural staff member who has been defense building inspector for the United States N

Mr. Hutchins, who is secretary and a member of tive committee of the New York Chapter of the Institute of Architects, is a member of the firm of Hutchins, designers of the general campus plan College, Baltimore, Md.

Mr. Hornbostel was associated with the design of house, art center, and library at Wheaton Colle Mass., of industrial plants in New York and New chemical research building for the Tennessee Vall ity and of private residences throughout Easter

Says Archite mral orum-A Vays good for an impressive showing in competitions, Cranbrook Academy of Art took first prize last month in the Rome collaborative competition. Sponsored by alumni of the American Academy in Rome, the problem is an annual one, requiring the cooperative efforts of student painters, sculptors, architects and landscape architects. This year's program called for the design of a railroad station and bus terminal, and the \$200 first prize went to the handsome solution of Ann Sirotenko and Stephen Page, architects and landscape architects, Jack Steele, painter, and Winslow Eaves, sculptor. The influence of Cranbrook's Saarinens and Milles is very evident and all to the good.

We enjoy receiving your Weekly Bulletins and I have had many architects who are on your mailing list tell me how much they appreciate your sending it to them. We all have one common problem and purpose these days in this tremendous Defense Program and I am sure that your Society is doing everything within its power the same as we are, in helping the architects to contribute their share in the work. Wayne S. Hertzka, Prest., State Assn. of Cal. Architects, Northern Section.

* 4

Bulletin: I am making a scrapbook on Architecture for my school work and I was wondering if you could send me some information on this subject. Thank you.—Yours truly, Donna Ward, 7A, Macomb School, Detroit.

Does anyone ever thank you for the things you do for the Society and the Chapter?

Your report on the Michigan Unification Plan in the last issue of the Bulletin gave me a complete story upon a subject which I should have entered, but could not because of my frequent absences from the city.-Bill Kapp.

Emil Lorch, F.A.I.A., president, Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., is in Florida. Back about May 1.

We apologize for not including The Ohio Architect in the list of architectural publications, in the March 31 issue of the Bulletin, Ralph C. Kempton, A.I.U. Building, Columbus, is

I have derived a great deal of pleasure and information from the Weekly Bulletin, which has been sent to me regularly for the past several months, and it is with some regret that I inform you at this time that Mr. Charles L. Marshall, State House, Topeka, Kansas, has been elected as President of The Kansas Society of Architects to succeed the writer for the next twelve months.

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I would suggest that the Weekly Bulletin be mailed to Mr. Marshall hereafter instead of being sent to me.

Again thank you for the privilege I have had of seeing your pamphlet every week, I am-Glen H. Thomas, President, The Kansas Society of Architects.

I wish to compliment you on the very fine Michigan Society of Architects bulletin, and from what I have seen probably ranks tops in the country and I am sure that Leone would agree.—D. J. Zimmerman, Indianapolis.

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